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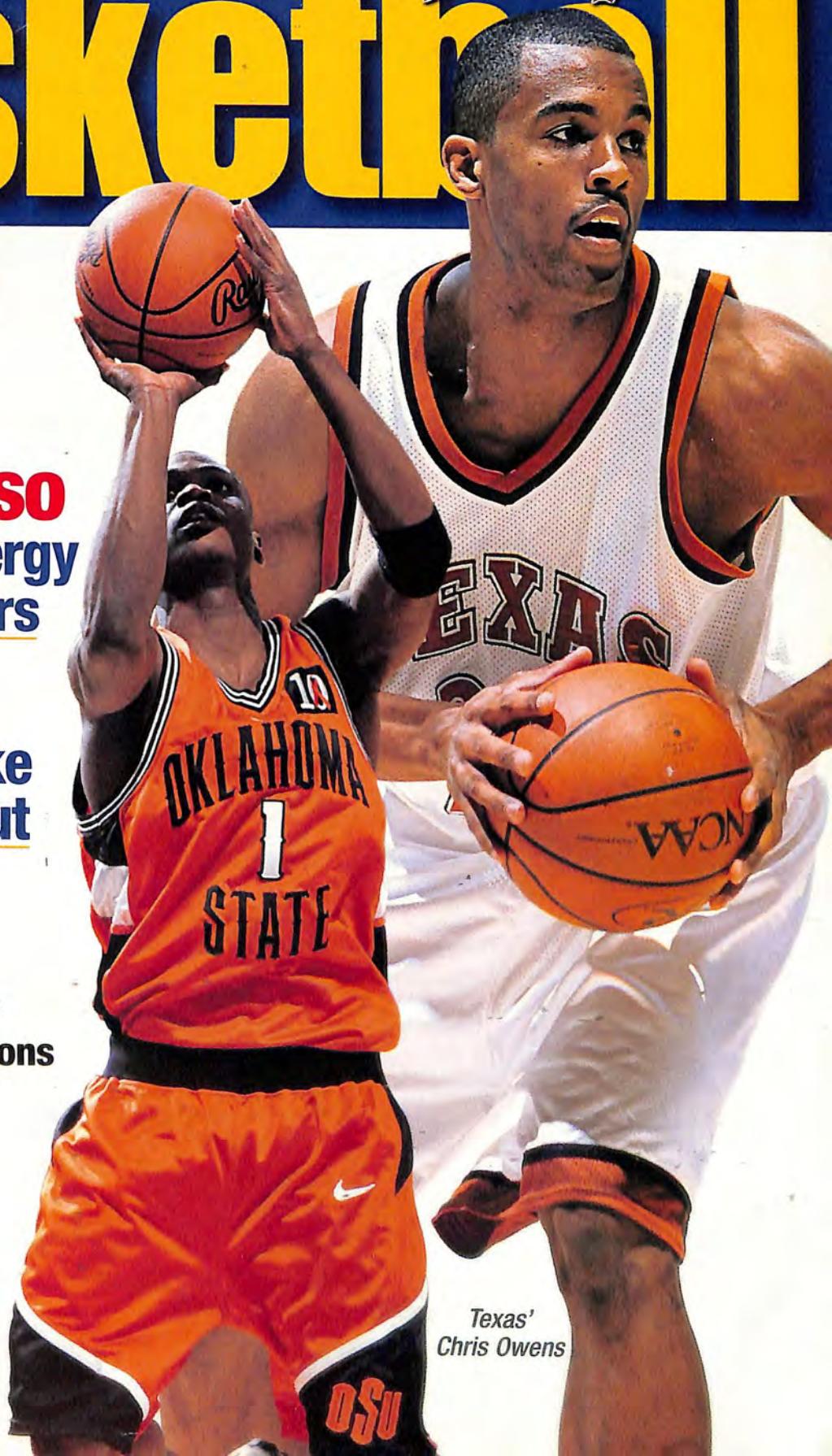
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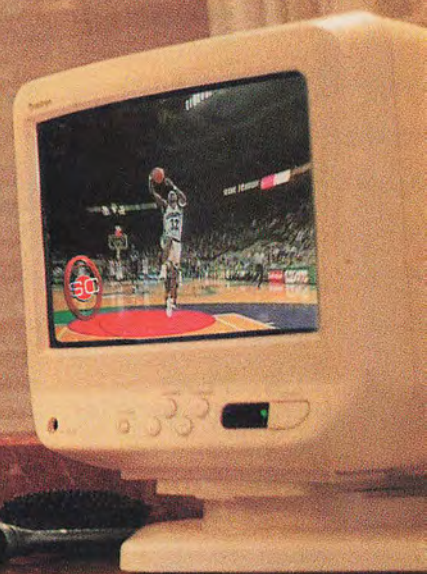




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#Formerly the Trans America Athletic Conference.

Editor's note: Many of the game schedules were tentative when we went to press. To confirm dates, opponents and locations, please contact the schools.

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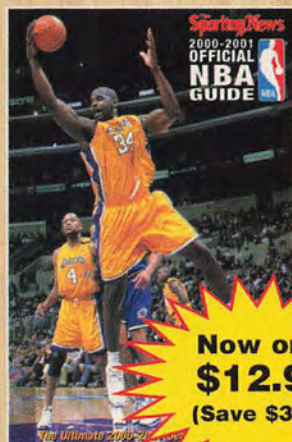
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SCOUT the nation

Frank Williams is not the game's best player or even the best point guard, but he is good enough—and motivated—to lead Illinois to its first national title

By MIKE DECOURCY

Among the many activities that occupied Frank Williams' summer—which didn't include, as expected, a trip across the stage at the NBA draft—was his work in the youth basketball camp operated by Illinois coach Bill Self.

Because Williams is as big a star as Illinois basketball has enjoyed since the days of Nick Anderson, he was assigned to lecture some campers about the game. At the end of his talk, he allowed his audience to pose questions.

This, no surprise, was the first: Why'd you come back?

This was Williams' answer: "Unfinished business."

That could be taken to mean Williams is looking to complete his degree work. It could mean Williams recognizes that elements of his game still can be polished. It could mean he wishes to become an All-American.

And it does mean all those things.

But really it means Frank Williams wants to win. This is a player who claimed three Illinois state championships at Peoria's Manual High. With the Illini last season, Williams might have tolerated a season-ending loss had it come in the Final Four, but stopping one game short with one of his weakest performances (he shot 3-of-15 in the Midwest Regional final loss to Arizona) generated a discomfort he wanted to conquer, not escape.

Although there are many experts conceding a second straight NCAA title to Duke and its

horde of returning starters, Illinois has enough to squeeze through and win its first championship. Williams is the main reason. He is that good, especially when he's motivated.

"If there's a good thing about going a long way and not getting it done," Self says, "it's that it leaves a taste in your mouth. I think he wants to get past that."

Williams may be the second-best player in the college game, but that doesn't mean he is the best at his position or even the best named Williams. Duke guard Jason Williams earned most everything last year that Frank Williams wants now: a title, All-American honors, universal respect among professional scouts.

Frank Williams has not surrendered to the conviction that the Wooden Award and its hardware brethren are spoken for.

"I'm pretty sure a lot of guys have that mentality," he says. "I would like to be first team. I would like to be drafted high. Everybody has those dreams. I've got to try to live up to them."

The Illini lost two starters from last season, forward Sergio McClain and center Marcus Griffin, who also were Williams' teammates at Manual. But the dissolution of the Peoria connection might help Williams become more assertive.

He was spectacular at times last season. At times. It was the same when he attended the U.S. national team trials in early June. He was the best player on the first night of competition, then performed miserably during two sessions



DILIP VISHWAT

SCOUTING

the following day. When threatened with the possibility of being cut, Williams responded with a brilliant final session.

"I don't think his effort is consistent," Self says. "He can be more consistent with his shooting and more consistent as far as being a playmaker, having a serious impact on the game at all times.

"I think he really is enjoying the college experience. He was a young man that thought, 'I can't wait to grow up and get to the pros.' But with everything that came down, with the signs around town that said, 'Stay Frank Stay' ... he's enjoying that. He said to me, 'Coach, I'm not ready. I can do better.'"

Duke's veteran newcomer

After one year at Duke, Dahntay Jones was awarded a championship ring. He would like to *earn* one in year two.

That would mean the Blue Devils becoming the first team to win consecutive NCAA titles since they did it in 1991 and 1992.

"That's our No. 1 priority right now," Jones says. "We have to be greedy with it."

The odds don't favor the same team winning it in consecutive years. Since Duke's repeat, three teams have returned to the Final Four following their title years (Arkansas returned in 1995, Kentucky in 1997, Michigan State in 2001), but none finished the job. Four defending champions failed to reach the Sweet 16 (Duke missed in 1993, North Carolina in 1994, UCLA in 1996 and Connecticut in 2000).

But Jones' arrival gives Duke a different dimension. Few teams in this position added a player who needed no adjustment to Division I. Jones, now a junior, starred at Rutgers before transferring to Duke for the sake of joining a winner.

He will not fill the precise role vacated by Shane Battier. Though Jones has great strength and is the best leaper at Duke since Grant Hill, he is only 6-5. But how many teams could lose

a Wooden Award winner and replace him with someone who already has 836 career points?

If Jones had stayed at Rutgers, he would have been free to score his 20 a game. Now, though he has polished his once-iffy jump shot, he can't be certain he'll average 20 minutes. Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski is not going to allow such a talent to rot, but Mike Dunleavy and Chris Duhon started last season at small forward and shooting guard, the positions Jones is best suited to play.

That means either Jones defends inside at 6-5, Dunleavy uses the weight he has gained to become a power forward or the Blue Devils employ 6-9 Carlos Boozer and 6-11 Casey Sanders in tandem. The last option would mean Jones would come off the bench.

"I wanted to be a part of something special," he says. "I

didn't want to have my four years go to waste and then regret it. I didn't think I was having that much fun at Rutgers.

"I have a great group of guys around me here. They just showed me how to win. You learn from the way they carry themselves. It's different in a winning program than a so-called mediocre program. The whole lifestyle—you've got to adapt to it, become a winning-type player."

Fixer-uppers

One way teams improve during the offseason is when their best players get better. None of these players had cause to be embarrassed by his play in 2000-01, but none approached his potential, either:

Darius Songaila, PF, Wake Forest. OK, so some of Songaila's late fade (four single-

figure scoring games in his final nine) likely was a product of a season extended by his appearance in the 2000 Olympics with the Lithuanian team. But the quarrel with his game remains the same: He doesn't rebound. This is a big, strong guy, but he averaged 6.0 rebounds a game, just 1.9 at the offensive end. He cost the Deacons possessions—and himself a few points on his 13.2 scoring average.

Vincent Yarbrough, SF, Tennessee. If Yarbrough needs an illustration of what he ought to be, he should watch game tapes of Virginia's Roger Mason Jr. Or, he could just look at Mason's numbers. Instead of standing outside the 3-point line hoping to get lucky, Mason takes that shot when it's available but otherwise works to make plays. Yarbrough needed 127 attempts to hit 43 times

Super model

Duke did not invent the style trends that will be most evident this season, but its success did affirm their value.

Solo stars. Jason Williams shot 15.5 times per game last season. Some of the nation's best basketball minds admit to being startled by some of his attempts. But they acknowledge a player so gifted must have as many scoring opportunities as possible. His teammates, however, must be prepared to strike when the defense overextends to stop him.



JOHN DUNN FOR TS/N

Boston College would do well to follow the plan Duke used with Williams (right) and allow Bell (above) to shoot at will.

This approach affects not only Williams, but Memphis freshman guard Dajuan Wagner, Boston College guard Troy Bell and Missouri forward Kareem Rush. At St. Joseph's, players accepted Marvin O'Connor's high-volume shooting, and the Hawks enjoyed one of their best seasons. Cincinnati recovered from a midseason funk by turning loose Steve Logan to launch as many good shots as he could find. Some teams need to accept being less egalitarian.

The drive-and-kick. This is known by many names: drive-and-dish, draw-and-dish, penetrate-and-pitch. It involves a ballhandler driving toward the lane, luring help defenders from the perimeter and passing the ball back to open shooters. This accounted for the majority of Duke's halfcourt offense. Milwaukee Bucks coach George Karl says this is the single most effective offensive tactic.

Teams owning multiple players who can drive and shoot are most dangerous using this approach. By employing quick freshman Aaron Miles, Kansas could be effective with this strategy. KU hasn't had a superior penetrator since Jacque Vaughn left in 1997, but Miles could open plenty of jump shots for Jeff Boschee and Kirk Hinrich.

The shooting "4-man." There aren't many Shane Battiers, but coaches are trying to find facsimiles after watching the Blue Devils create driving space and reduce double-teaming of their post players by spreading four players around the perimeter.

If the power forward is a non-shooter, defenses will allow him to stand alone. But if he has a touch like Southern California's Sam Clancy, Kentucky's Tayshaun Prince, Mississippi's Justin Reed or Maryland's Tajh Holden, the defense is going to be stretched. —M.D.



Yarbrough

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN



Gilbert

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

from 3-point range; Mason made 42 in 95 attempts. Yarbrough made 88 of 138 free throws. In four fewer games, Mason hit 122 of 138. If Yarbrough had the concentration to approach Mason's foul-line proficiency, his 13.9 scoring average would have increased by a point.

Clarence Gilbert, SG, Missouri. You have to grade on a pretty steep curve to excuse some aspects of Gilbert's junior-year performance. Yes, the long absence of star Kareem Rush forced a greater reliance on Gilbert. But does that justify an average of 14.8 shots a game for a 36.4 percent shooter? Among last season's Elite Eight teams, only Duke's Jason Williams fired more often. With Rush back and the rest of the Tigers maturing, Gilbert must become more selective.

Jason Capel, PF, North Carolina. One of the poorly kept secrets of last season was that Capel and All-American guard Joseph Forte did not enjoy their last days together. That might have affected Capel's stretch run, which was a factor in Carolina's plunge from national title contender to a 2-2 record over the final four games. Capel was 5-of-17 from 3-point range in those games but 12-of-18 on other field goals. He did too much of what didn't work and not enough of what did. Perhaps an expected move to power forward will force him to use his skills more often and his jumper more judiciously.

They're baaack!

There are programs that have great histories but not great recent histories. (A generation ago, Duquesne was a major power and not a running joke.) These programs are doing their best to revive their traditions:

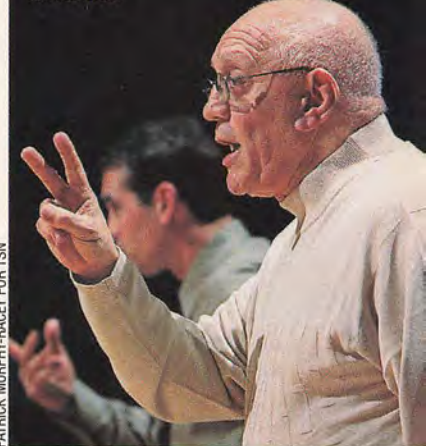
Georgetown. After stumbling through three seasons with a combined record of 50-46, the Hoyas blasted out of their funk with a 14-0 start that set the foundation for a Sweet 16 finish. To go further, the Hoyas must find a more consistent offensive direction and build the depth coach Craig Esherick wants. "And the

people that I designate as coming off the bench have to handle it as well," he says, as Anthony Perry, Lee Scruggs and Nat Burton did as seniors last season.

Memphis. The Tigers regressed from the Elite Eight in 1992 to Sweet 16 in 1995 to their current five-year tournament drought. Making the NIT final four in John Calipari's first season as Memphis coach was a step forward. Now, he must manage the delicate balance of squeezing all he can from freshman Dajuan Wagner's enormous scoring talent while keeping other Tigers involved and interested. If Calipari can pull that off, the Tigers not only will be back in the NCAAs, they'll be a factor once there.

Fresno State. The intensity that defined this program during the Boyd Grant era is returning. Last year, the Bulldogs were 20-3 in early February and began to assert themselves as a national power. The difference? "Last year, our players had pride in being a Bulldog. You don't play hard if you don't have that great pride," coach Jerry Tarkanian says.

Tarkanian



PATRICK MURPHY-RACEY FOR TSN

Arkansas. The Razorbacks owned a 21-5 NCAA Tournament record from 1990-95, but a mid-decade NCAA investigation ripped the soul from the program. The team has made the tourney the past four years but hasn't been past the second round. Although the Razorbacks lost shooting guard Joe Johnson to the NBA draft from last year's 20-11 team, there

SCOUTING

wasn't a senior among the top 11 scorers. If maturity allows the Razorbacks to believe, there is enough depth to make a charge.

Built for speed

Weary of teams walking the ball and forcing off-balance jumpers to beat the shot clock—because their coaches are too controlling and defenses too sophisticated—the NBA is trying to legislate more offense into its game.

The college game has become too slow as well. But the NCAA rules committee doesn't need to tinker more to increase the excitement. That would happen if coaches looked at what works.

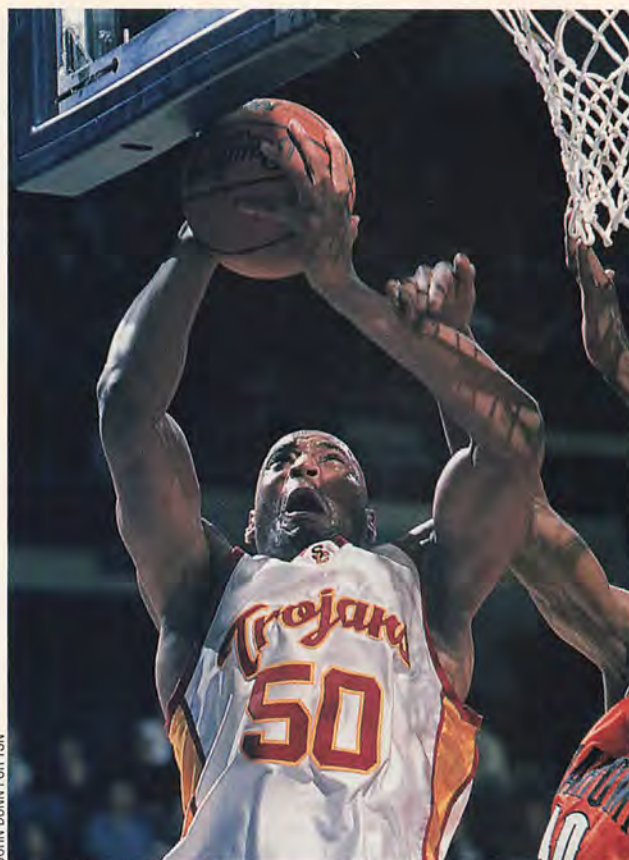
Duke, last season's NCAA champion, ranked No. 2 in scoring among Division I teams. Two of the others in the Final Four were among the most prolific: Maryland (No. 3) and Arizona (No. 13). The average record of the top 20 scoring teams was 22-10. Twelve made the NCAA Tournament and combined to finish 24-11.

The other Final Four team, Michigan State, ranked No. 13 in scoring defense. The top 20 in that category had an average record of 20-10. Eleven made the NAAs, and the 10 aside from the Spartans had a combined NCAA record of 2-10.

"It's a major advantage to play fast come tournament time," says new Louisville coach Rick Pitino, a press-and-run evangelist with a career NCAA Tournament record of 26-7 and four Final Four trips. "I think it's always the fast teams that move on."

Pitino believes teams that play quickly are more difficult to scout. With the level of game preparation that goes on in the tournament, coaches can identify most any set play an opponent runs and rehearse how to stop it in practice. With the computer editing systems most top programs have, they not only can recognize the play but also what tendencies the players will lean on as they run it.

It's harder to scout the sort of chaos that results when a team employs full-court pressure.



JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Those that run the ball can gain the extra three or four baskets that might decide a game.

Even with this year's game flooded with outstanding point guards, perhaps the deepest group at that position in the past 10 years, few teams look to get the ball to a ballhandling guard on an outlet and try to gain a numbers advantage. It's partly the coaches not emphasizing the break and partly the players' aversion to getting in the kind of condition that facilitates the running game.

But among those teams that rely on patient halfcourt execution to excel, the ones that enjoyed the greatest success mixed in some rip-and-run breaks: Utah in 1998 and Michigan State in 1999 and 2000.

"It's about attacking, being aggressive, getting easy baskets," says Western Kentucky coach Dennis Felton, who will push his team to get out on the break even though he has the best low-post center in the country in Chris Marcus. "I don't want to be a one-dimensional team. I want to put pressure on the other team. I don't want to just put it on them defensively."

After last year's fourth-place Pac-10 finish, USC could win the title with help from Clancy.

From Wall Street to Peachtree Street

We're talking Bulls and Bears here—but not the sort that play for South Florida and Baylor.

These are one analyst's recommendations on whose stock will rise in the game and whose will mimic the simultaneous collapse of Cisco, Palm and E*Trade.

BUY Connecticut. Caron Butler is good enough to carry a team, Taliek Brown has a year of experience at the point and coach Jim Calhoun has been known to use the Huskies' periodic NCAA Tournament absences as the foundation for long runs of outlandish success.

USC. No, the Trojans probably won't surpass the Elite Eight finish from last season. They might not even match it. But judged over the course of five months instead of three weeks, they'll do better. Freshman center Rory O'Neil can keep the pressure off star Sam Clancy, and guard Desmon Farmer can

fill the offensive void left by Jeff Trepagnier. Don't be shocked if the Trojans win their first Pac-10 title since 1985.

Mike Dunleavy. He added 20 pounds of muscle in the offseason and will inherit many of Shane Battier's responsibilities. Of all the able candidates to become the chief complement to All-American Jason Williams, Dunleavy is the ablest.

Cory Bradford. Overweight and bothered by the lingering effects of knee surgery, Illinois' shooting guard had a horrible junior season. His perceived value never has been lower and can only go up. Bradford is not a great player, but he's better than he has showed. He is healthy again, which makes him more dynamic athletically and helps make him more consistent on his jumper.

SELL Boston College.

Simply because Troy Bell returns does not mean the unlikely combination of circumstances (great team chemistry, a soft non-conference schedule, no games against Georgetown) can be reproduced. The Eagles lost too many important veterans for them to approach last year's 27-5 finish. It wouldn't be a total shock for them to fall to the NIT.

Conference USA. The hiring of Rick Pitino at Louisville made for an electric offseason, but the reality of East Carolina will strike as the season progresses. The Pirates' presence will dilute the league races and depress the composite power rating. Scheduling issues will keep other members from progressing as they otherwise might. How is a sub-.500 team such as Houston supposed to build a winning mentality when nearly 90 percent of its games are against major-conference opponents? The top of this league is ready to make a run at the "BCS conferences." The bottom serves as an anchor.

Wyoming. Those who know the Mountain West talent the best keep predicting greatness for the Cowboys, but the window for that to occur is closing—and the improvement at New Mexico, San Diego State and Utah is accelerating that process.

Short on height

With this past year's rush of high school big men entering the NBA draft—and the departure of such long-limbed luminaries as Eric Chenoweth of Kansas, Robb Dryden of Georgia and Igor Nikolic of UAB—the 7-foot college center is an endangered species. These guys are trying to keep the breed alive and thriving, though it's a chore for some:

Chris Marcus, 7-1, Western Kentucky. Marcus is the nation's best big man—probably the best since Wake Forest's Tim Duncan—with a rare combination of hands, lower-body strength, economy of movement and toughness. He is comfortable firing a turnaround jumper from the post and is unstoppable with a jump-hook, when he consents to using it. Marcus had 20 double-doubles in 31 games. About the only glaring weakness to his performance was his 63.9 percent free-throw shooting. He's working on it.

Alexandre Sazonov, 7-1, St. Joseph's. Optimistically listed at 235 pounds last season, he made an easy target for physical play. His technique needs some work, and he could be more precise with the ball. But he blocked a shot every 7.7 minutes. The nation's leader, Tarvis Williams of Hampton, blocked one every 7.3 minutes. Who wouldn't take that?

Josh Moore, 7-2, Michigan. For every 3.5 minutes Moore played, he committed a foul. That's an average of 11 fouls per game, more than enough to get him disqualified twice per night. If that doesn't hurt enough, how about his 9-of-37 foul shooting? He commands an absurd amount of space in the lane, though, and has a serviceable jump-hook. With proper teaching, he can be a player who worries opposing coaches.

Justin Brown, 7-0, Connecticut. His numbers are practically a flat line, but there might be some life in Brown's game. Brown doesn't look out of place when he plays. He got almost nothing done, but he looked promising doing it.

New sensations

Relying on recruits to carry a team can be a dangerous business. Playing against these guys may be more so:

Marcus Hatten, PG, St. John's. College coaches like his toughness and determination to find ways to score. Some wonder if he is a true point guard, but that's not an issue for the Red Storm. Abandoned by Omar Cook, the team is just pleased to have a talented guy to stick in his place.

Kelvin Torbert, SG, Michigan State. Torbert and Memphis guard Wagner are the early front-runners for freshman of the year. But whereas Wagner is another piece in Calipari's quick makeover of the Tigers, Torbert is a major ingredient in the Spartans' struggle to hold the ground they've gained in the past four seasons. Torbert can muscle opponents with a strong dribble move or stick open 3-pointers.

Julius Hodge, SG, NC State. What the rest of college basketball called the offseason, the North Carolina media called open season on Herb Sendek. There were numerous midsummer stories about what he must accomplish to retain his job. And much of the pressure to deliver the requisite success is on Hodge, a versatile wing who might play some at the point.

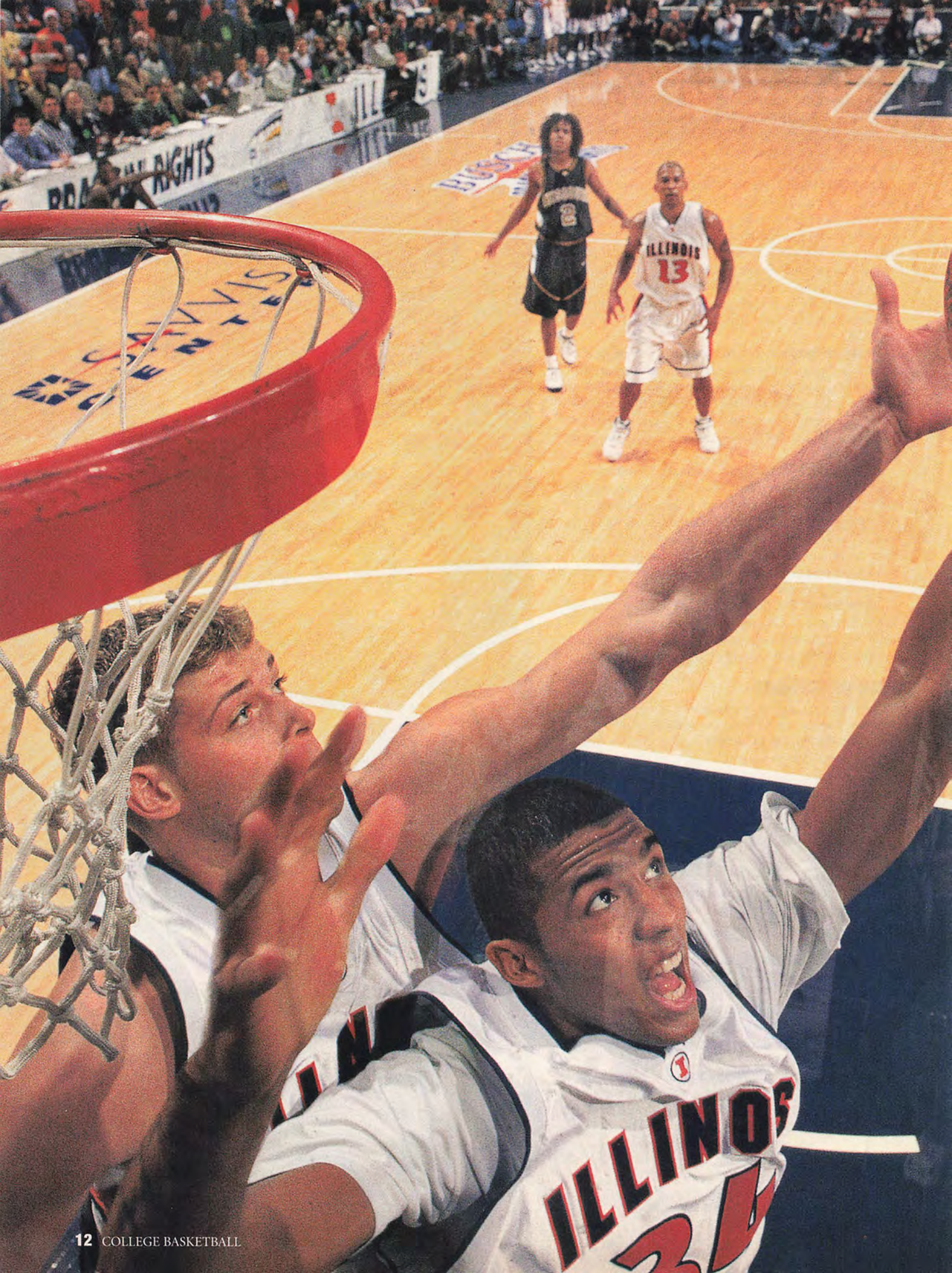
Jonathan Hargett, PG, West Virginia. If Boston College can win big, there is reason to believe the Mountaineers can make that sort of climb. Hargett is powerful, freakishly athletic and the kind of shooter who can destroy an opponent when he gets hot. But he hasn't yet proved he wants to be a great player.

E-mail senior writer Mike DeCourcy at decourcy@sportingnews.com.

Sazonov lacks the bulk to bang and rebound inside with more physical players, but the St. Joseph's center is one of the game's best shot blockers.



JOHN CORDES FOR TSN





**TSN'S
TOP**

25

Duke returns four starters from its 2001 national title team. It has six McDonald's All-Americans, including national player of the year favorite Jason Williams, and a Hall of Fame coach in Mike Krzyzewski.

But when it came to picking our preseason No. 1—and trying to tab the national title winner for a fourth straight season—we concluded someone would beat Duke. That was the easy part. Picking who that someone would be was not. After much wrangling, then more wrangling, among the staff, Illinois won us over. TSN college basketball expert Mike DeDourcy explains why and analyzes the rest of our Top 25.

Champagne for Champaign

1. ILLINOIS Frank Williams is back for another winter in Champaign not because he enjoys the weather or the pay is good or because he needed another year to become an NBA lottery pick. Williams is back to win this thing. He can't do it alone, but he'll have to be the Illini's playmaker and primary scoring option, so no player is more important to his team. A lack of penetrating wing players can be overcome if Cory Bradford, Sean Harrington and Lucas Johnson keep making jump shots and, most important, if junior PF Brian Cook plays like he means it. The Illini should be better up front with Robert Archibald getting starter's minutes and PF Damir Krupalija healthy. But Cook represents the greatest opportunity for improvement. He has been alternately brilliant and ordinary, but this championship pursuit demands consistency. If Cook is more intelligently active on defense and more assertive on offense and Williams stays healthy, the Illini will celebrate an NCAA title in Atlanta.

2. DUKE Even without Shane Battier, the Blue Devils may win more games and be more dominant than they were last season. SG Chris Duhon and PG Jason Williams are as formidable as any college backcourt, ever. PF Carlos Boozer is at least solid and has the physical equipment to excel. F Mike Dunleavy continues to advance toward great-

ness, and it's almost unfair how good G/F Dahntay Jones has become since transferring from Rutgers. But there will be problems matching up with big post players when C Casey Sanders is on the bench, and defending scoring power forwards will be tough regardless of who's in the game. We've seen overwhelming teams lose in the NCAA Tournament (UNLV 1991, Kansas 1997, Duke 1999) and many stopped short of repeating (1990 champ UNLV, '93 champ North Carolina, '94 winner Arkansas). Duke isn't going away, but it's not going to the top this year.

3. MARYLAND With last year's Final Four run, the Terps learned they need not fear success. The preseason pressure that overwhelmed them for much of last year is back, but weak-kneed PF Terence Morris is not. Now, C Lonny Baxter, SG Juan Dixon and PG Steve Blake are in position to lead, and the Terps will be better for it. Tajh Holden gets Morris' job, and he is tougher, more assertive and nearly as versatile. The Terps do not appear to have a player to drive the ball at forward and may be content with the sort of inside-out attack more fashionable in the mid-1990s. But SF Byron Mouton was that kind of player once and might be again. Maryland is not as deep in experience, but there are enough players to make this Final Four thing seem a habit.

4. FLORIDA The Gators would have been the preseason No. 1 team had recruit Kwame Brown not chosen to enter the NBA draft (and become the No. 1 overall pick). The most obvious element missing from this team is interior defense, and Brown would have helped immensely. Opponents shot 42 percent last year, and rarely do NCAA champions allow such a field-goal

Cook (34) could be the X-factor in Illinois' run for the national title. The versatile forward hit 55 percent from the field, but his scoring average fell to single digits late in the season.

percentage. The Gators can overcome some of that with their backcourt pressure—which will be more effective with the depth provided by freshmen SF James White and PF David Lee—and with potent perimeter scoring from PF Matt Bonner and G Brett Nelson. But the guards also must improve at defending the ball. It's nice to steal it, but often it is more important to impede its progress. Brown's mere presence would have discouraged penetration. They say you can't miss what you never had? Yeah, right.

5. KENTUCKY Wildcats fans who burned hours of radio air time pleading for a point guard other than Saul Smith now have their wish. But is sophomore Cliff Hawkins an improvement? He is quicker, certainly, but must prove himself as a shooter and playmaker. It is doubtful he'll play as intelligently. The inside game is fine even if C Jason Parker misses the season following summer knee surgery. Few teams have big men as capable as Marvin Stone, Jules Camara and Marquis Estill. No team has the sort of two-man scoring punch Kentucky enjoys in PF Tayshaun Prince and SF Keith Bogans. The missing element might be leadership; Prince is quiet, Bogans too narrowly focused and SG Gerald Fitch not experienced enough. Hawkins can exercise at least some command. The more he can manage,

the less UK fans will pine for the days when Smith ran things.

PATRICK MURPHY-RACEY FOR TSN



Gooden (above) must stay more focused for KU, and Taylor (left) must run MSU's offense more efficiently.

6. UCLA It's as if a hurricane blew through the college game and somehow left this program standing. C Dan Gadzuric and SF Jason Kapono could have departed for the NBA draft. Neither did. Combining them with PF Matt Barnes creates TSN's No. 1 rated frontcourt. A talent like T.J. Cummings backing up the power positions is a luxury. Wings Billy Knight and Ray Young understand their roles and work hard to fill them. But losing four-year starting PG Earl Watson creates a huge void that freshman Cedric Bozeman must fill. Watson ran the Bruins' high-post offense so well they averaged almost 80 points. Coach Steve Lavin intends to stick with the approach, but he has proved he will make radical changes when needed. If Bozeman struggles, UCLA will not sit idle.



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

7. KANSAS For the third straight season, the Jayhawks delivered exactly what the NCAA selection committee expected of them. If they do it this year, they might be back in Final Four territory for the first time since 1993. KU has a superb backcourt and dominant frontcourt but lacks the gifted wing player to bundle this package. The inside combination of C Nick Collison and PF Drew Gooden will improve as Collison

grows stronger and Gooden more focused. KU can use a dual-point attack with any combination of Kirk Hinrich, Jeff Boschee and freshman Aaron Miles. Freshman swingman Keith Langford could surprise, but another freshman, PF Wayne Simien, could be the key. If Simien defends and rebounds well enough, the post rotation will get some needed depth and this team will have few weaknesses. No program has wasted more No. 1 NCAA seeds, but this team might have the goods to justify one.

8. ST. JOSEPH'S Now that the secret's out on the Marvin O'Connor-Jameer Nelson backcourt, the Hawks have to soar without cover. The two guards will continue to provide the thrust of the offense but now may face better competition from an enhanced schedule and more defensive gimmicks from Atlantic 10 competition. St. Joe's can improve because PF Bill Phillips and C Damian Reid, though marvelously consistent, can enhance their production and SF Na'im Crenshaw should be a more accurate shooter with regular playing time. But the Hawks will reach this level only if O'Connor continues shredding defenses with his one-on-one scoring and Nelson continues leading and defending like a senior rather than a sophomore.

9. MISSOURI If opponents last year came to believe nothing was more terrifying than trying to defend SF Kareem Rush, how much more dangerous will Rush be now that he's surrounded by teammates with greater experience and talent? Sophomore big men Arthur Johnson and Travon Bryant are offensive targets. On the opposite wing, Clarence Gilbert and Rickey Paulding bring diverse skills to the job of drawing attention from Rush. But this will not become a top-ranked team unless it improves its low-post defense. The Tigers ranked 10th in the Big 12 in field-goal defense and had a negative rebounding margin. They might be better against the ball with PG Ricky Stokes getting more responsibility. Also, Bryant had two more blocks than departed starter T.J. Soyoye in 563 fewer minutes.

10. MEMPHIS Success-starved Memphis basketball fans now have two teams that are likely 20-game winners: John Calipari's Tigers, who would be pleased to finish in that neighborhood, and Sidney Lowe's Grizzlies, who would not. The Tigers will have the most dazzling player in town in freshman SG Dajuan Wagner. He is a spectacular, game-changing scorer who defied the supposition he would enter the NBA draft and may be enough of a force to unseat Cincinnati, the champion in each year of C-USA's six years of existence. Memphis enjoys power and quickness in the post with veteran C Kelly Wise, improving reserves Earl Barron and Modibo Diarra and junior college PF Chris Massie. It's unclear which initials will be more prominent in Memphis this season, NBA or NCAA, but at least no one will be talking NIT.

11. VIRGINIA Having survived without a big man the past couple of years, the coaches went out and recruited a center. However, freshman Elton Brown is no taller than

6-8 incumbent Travis Watson, which means this team still will need to beat opponents with speed, muscle and creativity. Thing is, the Cavs can make better use of those attributes on defense. What's surprising is shot blocking is not the greatest deficiency at the defensive end. Opponents turn over the ball more often, but too often they get easy looks at the goal. Virginia isn't too small. It's too sloppy. Bigger might be better, but better can come without bigger.

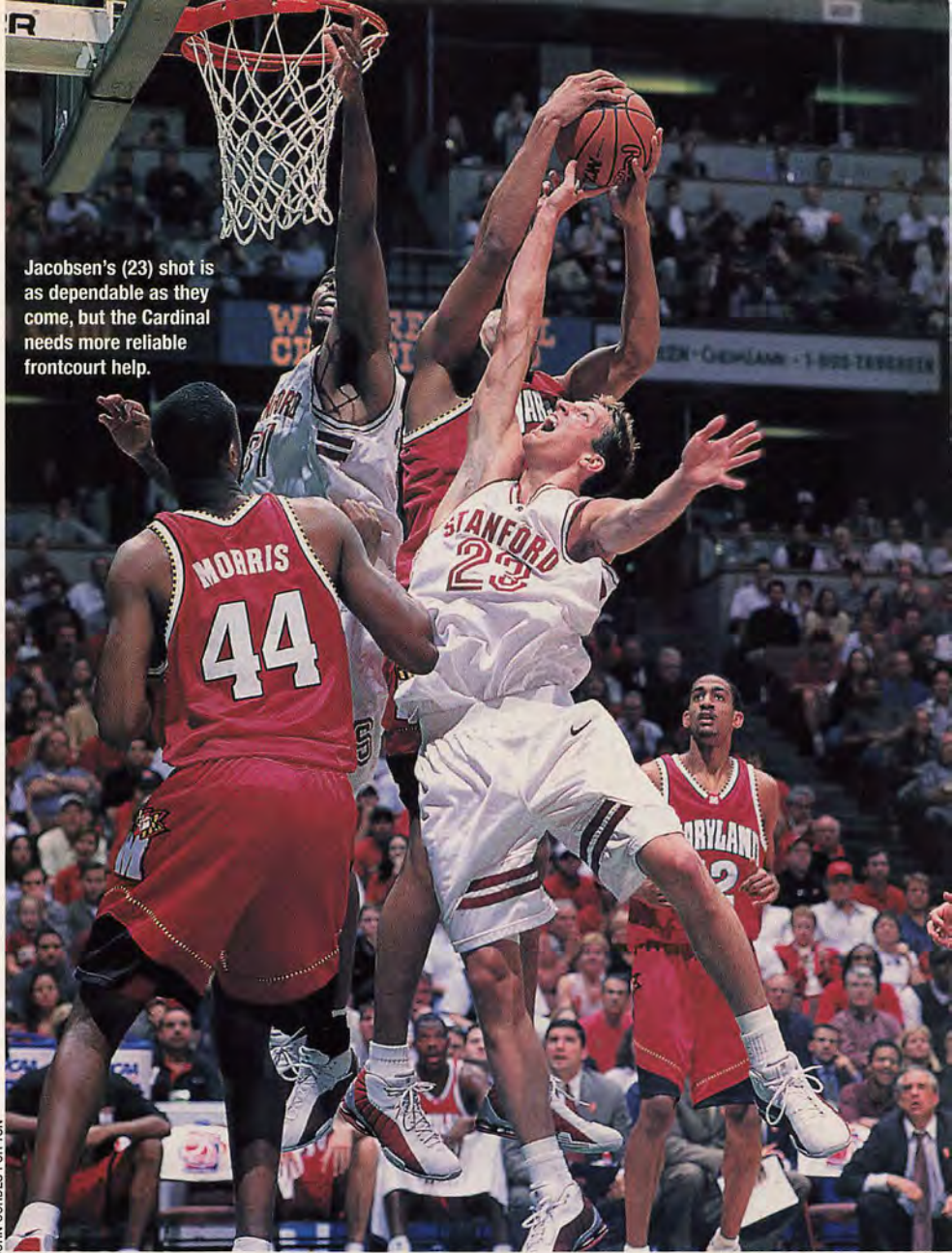
12. IOWA No team got more from its recruits last season, especially when you include junior college PF Reggie Evans and transfer SG Luke Recker. The Hawkeyes' eight first-year players averaged just more than 60 points a game en route to 23 wins, and another year in coach Steve Alford's system ought to make them more cohesive. It can make a huge difference on defense, where the Hawkeyes struggled. They lack speed at nearly every position, so they need to think their way into proper defensive position—the way Alford did as a player. The greatest immediate concern for the Hawkeyes is replacing PG Dean Oliver, a four-year starter. At least it won't be a freshman accepting that immense responsibility; for now, the job belongs to JC transfer Chauncey Leslie.

13. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA For two glorious weeks last March, USC was a basketball school. And in the months since, the Trojans owned the right to strut around Los Angeles like the city's reigning college kings. There is more shelf life in deep NCAA Tournament advancement than regular-season success, and the Trojans wiped away some Pac-10 frustration with impressive tournament wins over Boston College and Kentucky. PF Sam Clancy, SF David Bluthenthal and PG Brandon Granville were essential to that success and steadily have advanced through their first three seasons. There is little doubt sophomore SG Desmon Farmer can take over for Jeff Trepagnier, but replacing Brian Scalabrine in the middle will be daunting for Kostas Charissis, who played 84 minutes last season. He's 6-11 but hasn't yet earned the right to stand as tall as some of his teammates.

14. MICHIGAN STATE They're here to stay. It's that simple. Coach Tom Izzo's Spartans worked too hard to claim their position among the elite to surrender it simply because a couple of gifted players (Zach Randolph and Jason Richardson) checked out ahead of schedule. There might not be a fourth consecutive Final Four, but that would be tough to manage no matter who was in the lineup. Michigan State will keep its nose in the Big Ten race, with Gs Marcus Taylor and Kelvin Torbert providing most of the offensive spark and Al Anagnonye leading a deep group of big men. Taylor can provide the perimeter scoring needed because of the undeveloped inside game, but he also will need to lead more effectively. He grew up watching Mateen Cleaves reinvent this

Jacobsen's (23) shot is as dependable as they come, but the Cardinal needs more reliable frontcourt help.

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN



program, but Taylor's challenge isn't as imposing. The Spartans are where they want to be. He just has to keep them there.

15. STANFORD If Curtis Borchardt's feet were as dependable as Casey Jacobsen's jump shot, Stanford would be so much more comfortable. Jacobsen, the All-American wing, has scored 1,065 points in his short Cardinal career, which only seems to be the number of games Borchardt has lost to injury in his (even shorter) career. Stanford needs Borchardt, a promising 7-foot shot blocker, because it is fresh out of Collins twins. Instead, it has 6-8 and 6-7 widebodies Justin Davis and Teyo Johnson. That's not bad, but there's plenty for them to do without having to worry about providing the last line of defense. Coach Mike Montgomery also must figure out which of his available point guards—Tony Giovacchini, Julius Barnes or freshman Chris Hernandez—is best suited to succeed Michael McDonald. It has been

awhile since this program had to think its way through so many adjustments. You figure these guys can handle it.

16. GEORGETOWN It's not as easy to dislike the Hoyas as it once was. In fact, it's tempting to feel sorry for them. Losing SG Demetrius Hunter to transfer in mid-summer, with no opportunity to replace him, was a big blow to coach Craig Esherick, who likes a deep team. Last year's 10-man rotation rescued fans from a run of mediocrity that had begun to appear the norm. This team might not have as many interchangeable parts, but that could allow a greater focus on inside scoring by PF Mike Sweetney. Esherick believes F Courtland Freeman, C Wesley Wilson and F Victor Samnick, all juniors, are positioned for significant progress. Kevin Braswell is compact and powerful but could improve from 3-point range, as could the rest of the team. No one else who hit at least 10 3s topped 30 percent from beyond the arc.

17. OKLAHOMA STATE The Cowboys should be relieved to once again be a basketball team, rather than a cause. The plane crash that killed two players last season will not be forgotten, but it will become a part of this program's history. The team's progress will depend more upon developing scorers to complement SG Maurice Baker and C Fredrik Jonzen. They took more than 40 percent of the shots and scored just less than half the points. PF Ivan McFarlin, who sat out last season, has considerable post skills and might be the ideal partner for Jonzen, a finesse player. It's not asking too much for the others in the rotation, notably PG Victor Williams, to be more efficient. The Cowboys can again focus on becoming a better basketball team. That would be a fine tribute to their fallen teammates.

18. BOSTON COLLEGE When a team's results add up to more than the sum of its parts, and several of those parts then are subtracted, what kind of math problem does that create for the guys left behind? Unless you have an easy explanation for why the Eagles were so good last year, it's tough to make a strong case for their duplicating that success. PG Troy Bell has proved he is among the best scoring guards—and best players—but he'll need help producing points and leading. Versatile wing Ryan Sidney will need to become a featured part of the offense. F/C Uka Agbai, who had 13 double-figure scoring games as a sophomore, must do that regularly. SF Kenny Walls must shoot more consistently. The Eagles lack great interior defense and must regenerate their disruptive backcourt pressure.

19. ALABAMA The Crimson Tide has seemed a point guard away from greatness since the start of last season. That excuse won't survive with the arrival of Maurice Williams, a sturdy and creative freshman who should provide better direction for the considerable talents of wing Rod Grizzard, PF Erwin Dudley and SG Terrance Meade. The team will miss the depth Gerald Wallace provided inside, but he never completely unleashed his ability. Williams' arrival comes just in time, as the Tide did not have a returning player with more than 75 assists. If Williams gets teammates open shots,

Grizzard won't force as much and should leave behind his days as a sub-40 percent shooter. The defense, already quite good, should be enhanced with Williams focusing on opposing ballhandlers. He will not be the Tide's best player, just its most important.

20. CINCINNATI Cincinnati could not hang on to PG Kenny Satterfield, which makes it tougher to hang on to that run of six consecutive C-USA titles and 10 straight NCAA Tournament trips. SG Steve Logan, the reigning C-USA player of the year, will have a tough time duplicating his splendid junior season without his backcourt mate. With better post feeds, C B.J. Grove might become a more consistent scorer. Wings Leonard Stokes and Immanuel McElroy are comfortable with the ball. The Bearcats were an oppressive halfcourt defensive team by the end of last season, and that remains their greatest advantage. A tumultuous off-season—the program lost its chief recruiter, and C Donald Little was dismissed (although he may yet return)—did little to undermine the defense coach Bob Huggins employs. Huggins is a tough guy to ignore, though somehow Satterfield managed.

21. NORTH CAROLINA There are issues at the point and in the post and all the way down the bench, but when was the last time it was safe to completely dismiss this program? Carolina can solve its problems if C Kris Lang and reserves Brian Bersticker and Neil Fingleton stay healthy for a full season. Jason Capel never has been comfortable inside, but coach Matt Doherty could tweak the position with more perimeter responsibilities. Capel should be more functional as a quick power forward than a sluggish wing, anyway. Neither point, Adam Boone nor Brian Morrison, was totally effective last season. But the two were freshmen. Remember Derrick Phelps as a freshman, or King

Bell needs his teammates to score, too.

stretch for this team, but so is a plunge toward the NIT.

22. MISSISSIPPI You could call this team Ole Missed. It was one of the few major-conference NCAA Tournament teams that did not shoot better than 45 percent from the field. Four of the top seven scorers shot less than 38 percent. But their opponents did worse—especially from 3-point range—because of the

Rebels' defense. This team will not have wide-bodied Rahim Lockhart in the lane, but it could block more shots with 6-10 John Gunn at center and should be at least as effective defending the perimeter. PF Justin Reed, who consented to a supporting role his first season, will be the SEC's breakout star with his driving, shooting and hard-charging approach. Although G/F Aaron Harper and shooting guard David Sanders have the ability to improve, this won't be a team that is overly entertaining—except to Rebels fans.

23. TEXAS T.J. Ford might be the most important recruit in the history of Longhorns basketball. He probably doesn't stand quite 6-0, but he is a McDonald's All-American and game-breaking point guard who can enliven a halting offense that managed only 70.5 points and 12.2 assists per game. The Horns would be that much better had SF Maurice Evans not signed with an agent on his way to being undrafted by the NBA, but they believe Brandon Mouton can fill one of those two positions and that big men Chris Owens, James Thomas and Brian Boddicker will be more potent with Ford delivering the ball. Coach Rick Barnes generally has had enough charm and success to distract fans from his team's bruising ball. With Ford running the offense, this may be the first time a Barnes team has more personality than he does.

24. TEMPLE The Owls still haven't been able to get John Chaney to the Final Four, but they helped get him to the Hall of Fame, which is a bigger deal. They'll play another front-loaded schedule that is likely to depress their record. But that doesn't mean the proper combination of seeding, matchups and in-season development can't again make the Owls a tournament threat. PG Lynn Greer is a gifted shooter and improving playmaker, and C Kevin Lyde is a rock. If they continue to produce, the real key will be the progress of sophomore SG David Hawkins, who'll be asked to provide the punch that once came courtesy of Quincy Wadley. It's not out of the question that Chaney could begin his season with his induction at the home of the peach basket and end it at the home of the peach.

25. FRESNO STATE It's always an adventure in Fresno. Even in late August, this program can cook up a season-changing news story. For instance: the university tossing PG Tito Maddox for violating NCAA guidelines regarding receipt of benefits from an agent. Jerry Tarkanian will ask JC recruit Chris Sandy to run his offense. This removes much of the spark from the attack but also might exorcise the last remnants of the I'll-Get-Mine era personified by Courtney Alexander, Chris Herren and Winfred Walton. The guys left want to be Bulldogs. C Melvin Ely slowly has grown into a force at both ends, but for this team to become great, it must follow SF Chris Jefferies' lead and become more dependably serious about defense. It would be nice if the Bulldogs, at last, generate as much news on the court as away from it.



JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

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26. XAVIER New coach Thad Matta has the players, namely warrior David West, to win big, but will the players embrace his disciplined style?

27. GONZAGA The Bulldogs have progressed from a Cinderella story to a fixture on the best-seller's list. Dan Dickau leads the way with his shooting and passing.

28. PROVIDENCE Super pest John Linehan is the nation's No. 1 defensive weapon. Abdul Mills, Romuald Augustin and Maris Laksa form a solid nucleus.

29. WAKE FOREST Skip Prosser left Xavier for new digs, and the cupboard is far from bare, featuring seasoned scorers Josh Howard, Craig Dawson and Darius Songaila.

30. SYRACUSE Preston Shumpert is as good as anyone in the Big East, but there are a lot of unknowns around him.

31. CONNECTICUT Caron Butler, one of the nation's best freshmen last season, is ready to star. Fellow sophomore Taliek Brown should be smoother running the show.

32. ARIZONA Underclass defections keep the Wildcats out of the top 5, but five strong recruits will get them back to prominence soon enough.



Dickau

PATRICK MURPHY-RACEY FOR TSN

33. INDIANA Kirk Haston's early departure might have submarined big plans in Bloomington, but that won't keep Jared Jeffries from making a significant splash.

34. WYOMING The Cowboys, behind their Big Three—Marcus Bailey, Josh Davis, Uche Nsonwu-Amadi—should be the class of the Mountain West.

35. CHARLOTTE Another year of Rodney White would have been nice, but Jobey Thomas is a proven scorer, and Demon Brown should blossom.

36. OKLAHOMA Not a lot of glamour names, but there are several guys who can play, including a group of ready-to-contribute JC transfers.

37. WESTERN KENTUCKY The Hilltoppers lose only one contributor from their NCAA tourney team. Chris Marcus, the big man with the big game, should dominate.

38. SOUTH CAROLINA After 12 seasons at Wake Forest, Dave Odom takes over a rising Gamecocks squad, one with size and depth. If Chuck Eidson is healthy, so are the team's tournament chances.

39. BUTLER Five key players return from a squad that thrashed Wake Forest in the NCAA tourney. But with Thad Matta off to Xavier, how will the team respond to its third coach in three years?

40. TENNESSEE The Vols get a fresh start under Buzz Peterson, who vows to instill discipline and organization. Ron Slay and Vincent Yarbrough headline the returnees.

—Kyle Veltrop



Guard Reece Gaines' top priority this season will be shooting, not distributing, for No. 56 Louisville.

SCOTT ROVAK FOR TSN

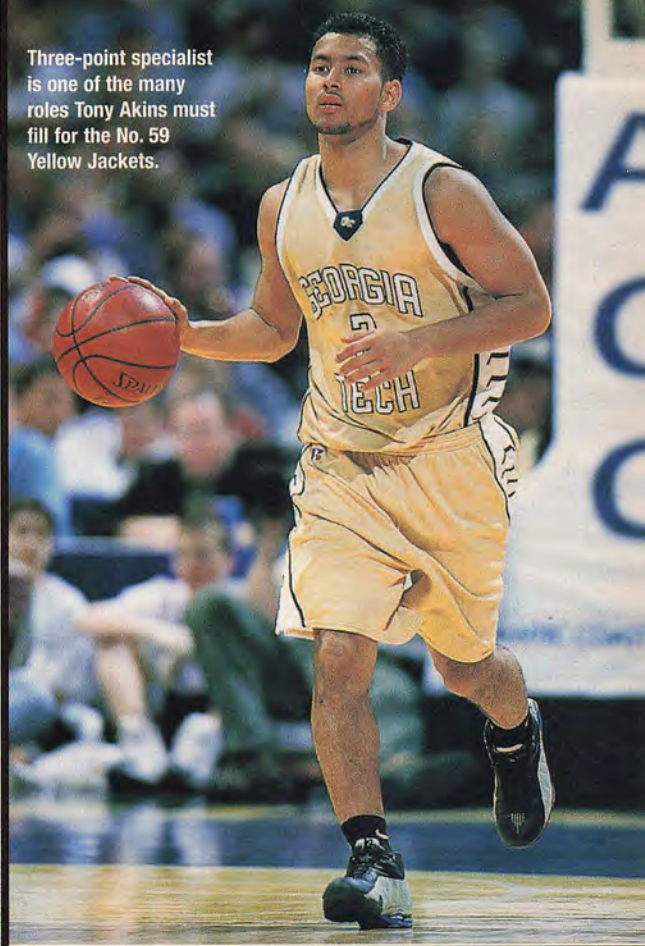
- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 41. Miami* | 71. UAB | 101. UNC Greensboro* |
| 42. Utah* | 72. Vanderbilt | 102. St. Bonaventure |
| 43. Ohio State* | 73. Clemson | 103. Mississippi State |
| 44. California* | 74. Baylor | 104. Oregon |
| 45. Georgia State* | 75. Detroit | 105. Indiana State |
| 46. Iowa State* | 76. Auburn | 106. Tennessee Tech* |
| 47. Michigan* | 77. Ball State | 107. UC Irvine |
| 48. UTEP* | 78. St. John's | 108. George Washington |
| 49. West Virginia | 79. Seton Hall | 109. Kansas State |
| 50. Notre Dame | 80. San Diego State | 110. Penn State |
| 51. Marquette | 81. Oregon State | 111. DePaul |
| 52. Central Michigan* | 82. Hawaii | 112. BYU |
| 53. Dayton | 83. Ohio | 113. Western Michigan |
| 54. Illinois State* | 84. Marshall | 114. Miami (Ohio) |
| 55. Arkansas | 85. LSU | 115. Utah State |
| 56. Louisville | 86. Iona* | 116. Santa Clara |
| 57. New Mexico | 87. UC Santa Barbara* | 117. Princeton* |
| 58. Richmond | 88. TCU | 118. Washington |
| 59. Georgia Tech | 89. UNLV | 119. UNC Wilmington |
| 60. South Florida | 90. SMU | 120. Murray State |
| 61. Arizona State | 91. New Mexico State | 121. Northern Arizona* |
| 62. Bowling Green | 92. Hofstra* | 122. South Carolina State* |
| 63. Creighton | 93. Fordham | 123. Alabama State* |
| 64. Villanova | 94. Wisconsin | 124. La Salle |
| 65. Minnesota | 95. Pittsburgh | 125. Northwestern |
| 66. Colorado | 96. Saint Louis | 126. Tulane |
| 67. NC State | 97. Georgia | 127. Cleveland State |
| 68. Massachusetts | 98. San Francisco | 128. Texas-San Antonio* |
| 69. Purdue | 99. Valparaiso* | 129. Georgia Southern |
| 70. Tulsa | 100. Texas Tech | 130. Boston University* |

131. Delaware
132. Rutgers
133. Southern Mississippi
134. Troy State
135. Texas A&M
136. Southern Illinois
137. Niagara
138. Southwest Missouri
139. Winthrop*
140. Monmouth*
141. Holy Cross*
142. Montana State
143. McNeese State
144. Pepperdine
145. College of Charleston
146. Washington State
147. Louisiana Tech
148. Bradley
149. Canisius
150. Toledo
151. Maine
152. Oakland
153. Davidson
154. Nebraska
155. George Mason
156. Navy
157. South Alabama
158. Eastern Illinois
159. Duquesne
160. Colorado State
161. Boise State

162. Evansville
163. Long Beach State
164. Wisconsin-Milwaukee
165. Kent State
166. San Jose State
167. Florida State
168. Manhattan
169. Cal State Northridge
170. Arkansas State
171. Wright State
172. San Diego
173. Jacksonville
174. Weber State
175. Radford
176. Penn
177. Virginia Commonwealth
178. Alcorn State
179. Virginia Tech
180. Pacific
181. East Carolina
182. Drake
183. Old Dominion
184. Illinois-Chicago
185. Rider
186. Akron
187. East Tennessee State
188. Florida International
189. Mercer
190. Vermont
191. Montana
192. Marist

193. Wisconsin-Green Bay
194. Brown
195. Norfolk State
196. Wagner
197. Louisiana-Monroe
198. Alabama A&M
199. James Madison
200. Rhode Island
201. Nevada
202. Houston
203. Air Force
204. Wichita State
205. Rice
206. Youngstown State
207. Siena
208. Morehead State
209. Chattanooga
210. Louisiana-Lafayette
211. Northeastern
212. Stetson
213. Eastern Washington
214. UNC Asheville
215. Missouri-K.C.
216. Delaware State
217. Central Connecticut
218. Drexel
219. Hampton
220. Texas-Arlington
221. Fairfield
222. Tennessee-Martin
223. The Citadel
224. Arkansas-Little Rock
225. New Hampshire
226. Northwestern State
227. Samford
228. Mary.-Balt. County
229. Lehigh
230. Yale
231. William & Mary
232. Appalachian State
233. Loyola Marymount
234. Stony Brook
235. Belmont
236. Idaho State
237. Coastal Carolina
238. Oral Roberts
239. North Carolina A&T
240. Long Island
241. Colgate
242. Loyola (Ill.)
243. Eastern Kentucky
244. Furman
245. Denver
246. Charleston Southern
247. Columbia
248. IUPUI
249. Howard
250. St. Francis (N.Y.)
251. Lamar
252. Towson
253. Northern Iowa
254. Austin Peay
255. New Orleans
256. Southern Utah
257. Southeast Missouri St.
258. UC Riverside
259. Harvard
260. Coppin State
261. Fairleigh Dickinson
262. Bucknell
263. Sam Houston State

Three-point specialist is one of the many roles Tony Akins must fill for the No. 59 Yellow Jackets.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Britton Johnsen leads a solid front line that should have No. 42 Utah in the thick of the Mountain West race.



264. Cal Poly
265. Loyola (Md.)
266. Tennessee State
267. Central Florida
268. Nicholls State
269. Jackson State
270. Grambling State
271. Northern Illinois
272. Campbell
273. Portland State
274. Western Illinois
275. Florida A&M
276. Buffalo
277. Florida Atlantic
278. Bethune-Cookman
279. Sacred Heart
280. American
281. Southwest Texas State
282. Prairie View
283. Western Carolina
284. Texas-Pan American
285. Lafayette
286. Mount St. Mary's
287. Robert Morris
288. Texas Southern
289. Stephen F. Austin
290. Cal State Fullerton
291. Saint Mary's
292. Portland
293. Hartford
294. High Point
295. Mississippi Valley State
296. Binghamton
297. Liberty
298. Southern

299. Idaho
300. Wofford
301. Centenary
302. Eastern Michigan
303. St. Peter's
304. Morgan State
305. North Texas
306. Cornell
307. Middle Tennessee
308. VMI
309. Quinnipiac
310. Jacksonville State
311. Maryland-Eastern Shore
312. Chicago State
313. Southeastern Louisiana
314. St. Francis (Pa.)
315. Army
316. Dartmouth
317. Elon
318. Cal State Sacramento
319. Savannah State
320. Albany
321. Morris Brown
322. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
NR Birmingham Southern**
NR Gardner-Webb**
NR Lipscomb**
NR Texas A&M-Corpus Christi**

* Projected NCAA Tournament team
** NCAA Division I provisional team that is not yet NCAA tourney eligible

TSN All-American team

First team

Pos.	Name	Class	Ht./Wt.	School	PPG	RPG	APG
G	Jason Williams	Jr.	6-2/196	Duke	21.6	3.3	6.1
G	Casey Jacobsen	Jr.	6-6/210	Stanford	18.1	4.0	2.3
F	Kareem Rush	Jr.	6-6/212	Missouri	21.1	6.7	2.0
F	Tayshaun Prince	Sr.	6-9/215	Kentucky	16.9	6.5	2.9
C	Chris Marcus	Sr.	7-1/285	Western Kentucky	16.7	12.1	0.9

Second team

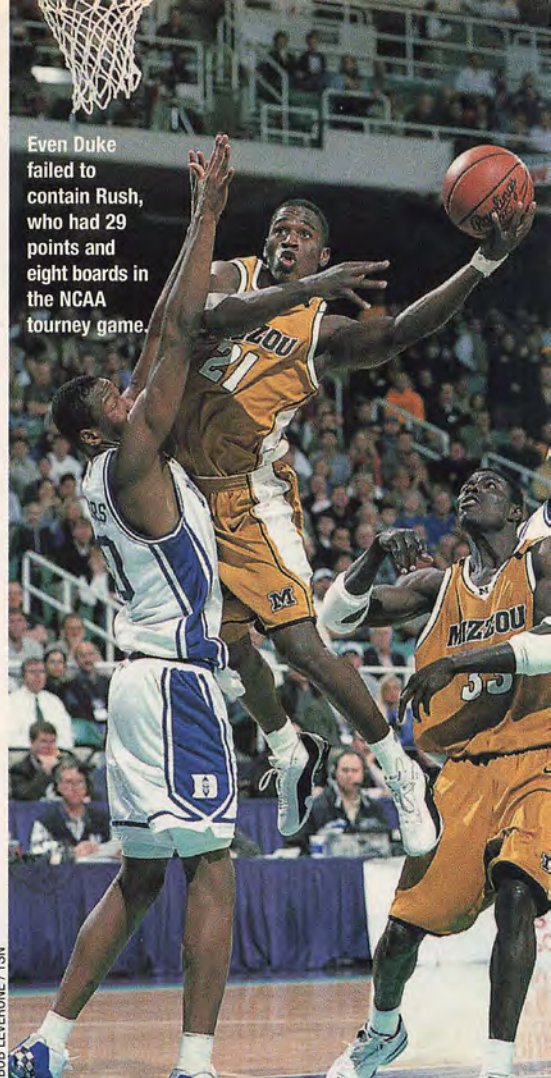
Pos.	Name	Class	Ht./Wt.	School	PPG	RPG	APG
G	Frank Williams	Jr.	6-3/205	Illinois	14.9	3.7	4.4
G	Marvin O'Connor	Sr.	6-4/200	St. Joseph's	22.1	3.7	2.6
F	Caron Butler	So.	6-7/235	Connecticut	15.3	7.6	3.1
F	Sam Clancy	Sr.	6-7/240	Southern California	17.3	7.5	1.0
C	Carlos Boozer	Jr.	6-9/270	Duke	13.3	6.5	1.2

Mike DeCourcy's Player Rankings

Top 20 point guards

Rk.	Player, school	Class	Comment
1.	Jason Williams, Duke	Jr.	Could've spent his summer with the U.S. national team; didn't need the work.
2.	Frank Williams, Illinois	Jr.	The last of the Illini's Peoria connection can become the first to win an NCAA title.
3.	Dan Dickau, Gonzaga	Sr.	Gonzaga's best all-around player since John Stockton—how's that for a compliment?
4.	Troy Bell, Boston College	Jr.	Four single-figure scoring games in two seasons. He doesn't take a night off.
5.	Jameer Nelson, St. Joseph's	So.	The steal of steals in the City of Brotherly Love. Take <i>that</i> , Temple.
6.	Brett Nelson, Florida	Jr.	When he's as good inside the 3-point line as he is outside it, he'll dominate.
7.	Lynn Greer, Temple	Sr.	Playing the point for John Chaney might be the toughest job in the nation.
8.	Kirk Hinrich, Kansas	Jr.	Might share this role with Aaron Miles, but he's too good to lose his starting job.
9.	Marcus Taylor, Michigan State	So.	Everyone knows the kid can play—but can he be a true point guard?
10.	Jason Gardner, Arizona	Jr.	Wanted the NBA more than it wanted him, but still has a home with AU.
11.	John Linehan, Providence	Sr.	Shot 42 percent on 3s, and all anyone wants to talk about is his defense.
12.	Steve Blake, Maryland	Jr.	If he handled everyone the way he does Jason Williams, he might be near the top.
13.	Brandon Granville, USC	Sr.	Wore down as March wore on, shooting just 10-of-30 in NCAA tourney.
14.	Hollis Price, Oklahoma	Jr.	Without J.R. Raymond, Sooners need Price to average more than 11.8 points.
15.	Demon Brown, Charlotte	Jr.	Wrestling with the position's demands, but skilled enough to be one of the best.
16.	Jerry Green, UC Irvine	Sr.	Attempted 235 free throws last season, among the NCAA's most amazing stats.
17.	Trevor Huffman, Kent State	Sr.	Had a hand in 3.9 of every 10 field goals for the MAC champion.
18.	Kevin Braswell, Georgetown	Sr.	The one essential Hoya, he averaged nine more minutes than his closest teammate.
19.	Tony Akins, Georgia Tech	Sr.	Averaged 18.4 ppg after January as Yellow Jackets charged toward an NCAA bid.
20.	Taliek Brown, Connecticut	So.	It used to be NYC PGs could excel without shooting, which makes him a throwback.

Even Duke failed to contain Rush, who had 29 points and eight boards in the NCAA tourney game.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Top 20 shooting guards

Rk.	Player, school	Class	Comment
1.	Casey Jacobsen, Stanford	Jr.	Knows feeling of No. 1 ranking but has yet to experience the Final Four.
2.	Marvin O'Connor, St. Joseph's	Sr.	Fastest gun in the East made a name for himself in last year's NCAAs.
3.	Juan Dixon, Maryland	Sr.	Needs 466 points to join Bias, King, Branch and Lucas in Terps' 2,000-point club.
4.	Chris Duhon, Duke	So.	Might be the nation's best point guard in another season.
5.	Dajuan Wagner, Memphis	Fr.	We've heard the Iverson comparisons—but does he measure up to Andre Turner?
6.	Maurice Baker, Oklahoma State	Sr.	Among combo guards, only Duke's Jason Williams and Duhon rank with Baker.
7.	Luke Recker, Iowa	Sr.	Indiana, Arizona, Iowa made the NCAAs without him. All would've been better with him.
8.	Roger Mason Jr., Virginia	Jr.	Was stuck in single figures six times. He must be more consistently assertive.
9.	Steve Logan, Cincinnati	Sr.	From mid-January to mid-March, rescued UC from mediocrity with 21.5 ppg.
10.	Ruben Douglas, New Mexico	Jr.	At 6-4, was second on team in rebounding and nine times grabbed eight or more.
11.	Kelvin Torbert, Michigan State	Fr.	Becomes MSU's No. 1 scoring option the moment he puts on the uniform.
12.	Romain Sato, Xavier	So.	If only this were a beauty contest—nobody has a better body for the position.
13.	Desmon Farmer, USC	So.	Has developed into a first-rate Pac-10 player since discovering his right hand.
14.	Frederick Jones, Oregon	Sr.	Excels as a rebounder, passer, slasher. Could be more consistent as a shooter.
15.	Marcus Bailey, Wyoming	Jr.	Not many off-guards score nearly twice as much from the foul line than the arc.
16.	Jobey Thomas, Charlotte	Sr.	No one is better at curling behind screens and firing quick jumpers.
17.	Clarence Gilbert, Missouri	Sr.	No lack of confidence—reached double figures 10 times in 3-point attempts.
18.	Bernard Robinson, Michigan	So.	Averaged 17 points, 61 percent shooting in final six games even as season crumbled.
19.	Eric Channing, New Mexico St.	Sr.	Was a single basket removed from reaching double figures in all 28 games.
20.	Reece Gaines, Louisville	Jr.	Always was more of an off-guard than a point. Carlos Hurt's arrival makes that official.

Top 20 small forwards

Rk.	Player, school	Class	Comment
1.	Kareem Rush, Missouri	Jr.	In the over 6-5 division, he is the toughest college player to defend one-on-one.
2.	Caron Butler, Connecticut	So.	Slapped a triple-double—plus four steals—on Rhode Island in his eighth college game.
3.	Preston Shumpert, Syracuse	Sr.	Coach Jim Boeheim does such a great job developing wings, he should work for Boeing.
4.	Ronald Dupree, LSU	Jr.	When you're under .500, it's hard to gain recognition—even if you play hard and produce.
5.	Jason Kapono, UCLA	Jr.	Bruins must do a better job generating shots for a guy who hits nearly half his 3s.
6.	Keith Bogans, Kentucky	Jr.	Stormed through seven March games with 21 ppg and 53 percent shooting.
7.	LaVell Blanchard, Michigan	Jr.	Would love to shake perception he's the best college player stranded on a losing team.
8.	Dahntay Jones, Duke	Jr.	Will trade his choice seat on the bench for a prominent spot in the rotation.
9.	Rod Grizzard, Alabama	Jr.	Is too tough on the boards to spend so much of his offensive energy hunting for deep shots.
10.	David Bluthenthal, USC	Sr.	Following a first-round shutout, averaged 21.3 points in three NCAA Tournament games.
11.	Vincent Yarbrough, Tennessee	Sr.	If only he were as determined in playing as we are in believing he can play.
12.	Tamar Slay, Marshall	Sr.	A late slump dragged his 3-point percentage to an uncharacteristic 33 percent.
13.	Predrag Savovic, Hawaii	Sr.	With 107 assists last season, is by far the most productive passer on this list.
14.	Altron Jackson, South Florida	Sr.	Escaped B.B. Waldon's shadow, but could improve his 3-point touch.
15.	Chris Jefferies, Fresno State	Jr.	Bulldogs need more than 15.5 ppg from Jefferies to replace Demetrius Porter's production.
16.	Darius Rice, Miami	So.	For a guy known as a shooter—and only a shooter—34 percent on 3s doesn't cut it.
17.	Josh Howard, Wake Forest	Jr.	His game should be liberated by the open-court, pressing style of new coach Skip Prosser.
18.	Britton Johnsen, Utah	Jr.	Still working off the effects of a two-year layoff for his Mormon mission.
19.	Rasual Butler, La Salle	Sr.	A career 19-ppg guy, but his teams have finished a combined 13 games under .500.
20.	David Hawkins, Temple	So.	His progress is the key to getting John Chaney to his first Final Four.

Top 20 power forwards

Rk.	Player, school	Class	Comment
1.	Tayshaun Prince, Kentucky	Sr.	Takes "power" out of "power forward," but can wreck opponents with his varied skills.
2.	Sam Clancy, USC	Sr.	Played great at the NBA's pre-draft camp but decided to pass (for now) on the pros.
3.	Drew Gooden, Kansas	Jr.	Can play any frontcourt position but is best suited to lure post defenders from the lane.
4.	Reggie Evans, Iowa	Sr.	Could be NCAA's best rebounder, inch for inch, since Jerome Lane at Pittsburgh.
5.	Justin Reed, Mississippi	So.	Freshman production (11 ppg, 5.9 rpg) only hinted at what he can do for the Rebels.
6.	Mike Dunleavy, Duke	Jr.	Similar position switch from the wing led Shane Battier to Wooden, Robertson and Naismith awards.
7.	Jared Jeffries, Indiana	So.	Without Kirk Haston to distract defenses, how will he handle being the focus?
8.	Brian Cook, Illinois	Jr.	Shot 57 percent in world championships and—even better—tried only four 3s.
9.	Mike Sweetney, Georgetown	So.	Hoyas must be more devoted to feeding him the ball in the post.
10.	Erwin Dudley, Alabama	Jr.	The one college player who might be able to go board-for-board with Iowa's Evans.
11.	Ron Slay, Tennessee	Jr.	More points and rebounds should come; fewer finger-pointing celebrations would be nice, too.
12.	Darius Songaila, Wake Forest	Sr.	Played heroically for Lithuania in 2000 Olympics; hit the wall for the Deacs by February.
13.	Kevin Johnson, Tulsa	Jr.	Dominated Tulsa's NIT title run with averages of 17 points, 7 rebounds, 2 blocks.
14.	Josh Davis, Wyoming	Sr.	Scoring dipped as he lost his stroke, hitting only four of his last 23 3-point tries.
15.	Tahj Holden, Maryland	Jr.	Delivers size, muscle, toughness, competitiveness—everything Terence Morris did not.
16.	James Thomas, Texas	So.	Dreadful free-throw shooting is one obstacle to his becoming an all-Big 12 player.
17.	Randy Holcomb, San Diego St.	Sr.	Averaged 18 points in non-league games but only 14 points vs. MWC foes.
18.	Matt Barnes, UCLA	Sr.	Not UCLA's most talented player, but no one is more important to the operation.
19.	Jason Capel, North Carolina	Sr.	Bill Guthridge couldn't turn him into a power forward, but coach Matt Doherty needs this to work.
20.	Luke Walton, Arizona	Jr.	Will need to score big to keep the Wildcats in the Pac-10's first division.

Top 20 centers

Rk.	Player, school	Class	Comment
1.	Chris Marcus, Western Kentucky	Sr.	Haven't seen him yet? Be assured every NBA scout has taken a long look.
2.	Carlos Boozer, Duke	Jr.	Found he could dominate the world if he put his heart in it; next up, the ACC.
3.	David West, Xavier	Jr.	No one is better at finding the proper angle to release a shot inside the lane.
4.	Melvin Ely, Fresno State	Sr.	Has 100-block ability but has been lured into foul trouble too often.
5.	Udonis Haslem, Florida	Sr.	Foul shooting gives him the edge over Maryland's Baxter, whose game is nearly identical.
6.	Lonny Baxter, Maryland	Sr.	Fifty points in two games in Anaheim made him the West Region's most outstanding player.
7.	Kelly Wise, Memphis	Sr.	Will he accept a reduced role in the offense as the price for his first NCAA appearance?
8.	Nick Collison, Kansas	Jr.	Still not sure if he's a center or a power forward, but the ball finds him often enough.
9.	Chris Owens, Texas	Sr.	With his jumping ability and muscle, he ought to grab more than 7.9 boards per game.
10.	Robert Archibald, Illinois	Sr.	Will have to cut back on the rough stuff and emphasize his ball skills as a starter.
11.	Dan Gadzuric, UCLA	Sr.	Reached four fouls 15 times, too often for someone who doesn't emphasize muscle.
12.	Kris Lang, North Carolina	Sr.	His jump hook is still his most dangerous weapon, but it isn't used nearly enough.
13.	Fredrik Jonzen, Oklahoma State	Sr.	Rare frontcourt workhorse played at least 30 minutes in each of the last 20 games.
14.	Kevin Lyde, Temple	Sr.	Would be an overwhelming force in an offense that emphasizes low-post scoring.
15.	Travis Watson, Virginia	Jr.	Cavs don't slow offense to get him shots, but he had 13 double-doubles last season.
16.	Brandon Hunter, Ohio	Jr.	The big schools never thought he was big enough, but they were wrong.
17.	Arthur Johnson, Missouri	So.	Tigers deservedly are feared on the perimeter, but many overlook their big guy.
18.	Marvin Stone, Kentucky	Jr.	He's not Jason Parker, but it would be good enough if he'd just be Marvin Stone again.
19.	Brian Stewart, UTEP	Sr.	Miners hoped he would be a shot blocker and space eater; he gave them 12 ppg as a bonus.
20.	J.R. VanHoose, Marshall	Jr.	Achieved double-doubles in 20 of 27 games as a junior, including the last 10.

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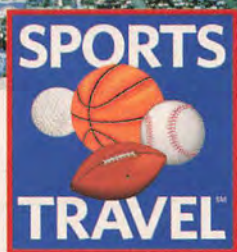
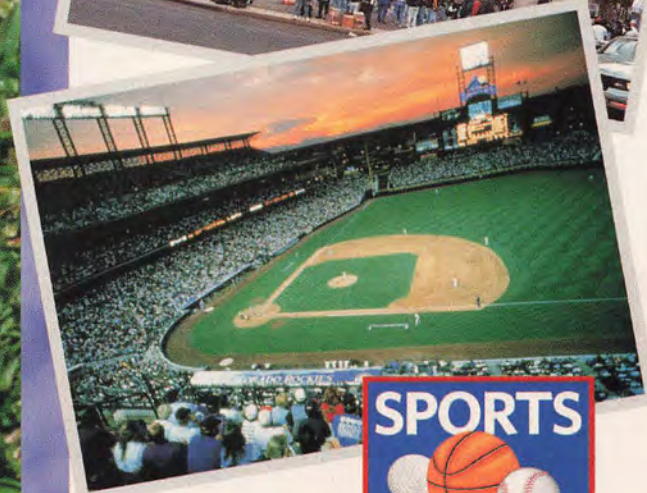
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FRONTCOURTS

1. UCLA (Matt Barnes, T.J. Cummings, **Dan Gadzuric**, Jason Kapono, Andre Patterson). Kapono is a syrupy-sweet shooter who is improving his all-around game. Gadzuric can be dominant. Barnes, who can do a little of everything, found his niche last year at power forward and is a tough matchup. Patterson joins a rising Cummings as instant energy providers off the bench.

2. Kentucky (Keith Bogans, Jules Camara, Erik Daniels, Marquis Estill, Chuck Hayes, Jason Parker, **Tayshaun Prince**, **Marvin Stone**). Prince flourished after a move to power forward, and Bogans did the same after his move to small forward. Stone must shed his underachieving ways because Parker is sidelined indefinitely. Camara could be ready to blossom after sitting out last year.

3. Kansas (Jeff Carey, Nick Collison, **Drew Gooden**, Wayne Simien). Collison and Gooden are a splendid set of bookend forwards who are ready for stardom. Simien, a McDonald's All-American, is a chiseled player who should provide some needed toughness. The only thing lacking is depth.

4. Florida (Matt Bonner, Bonell Colas, **Udonis Haslem**, David Lee, Adrian Moss, James White). Adding No. 1 NBA pick Kwame Brown would have resulted in an excess of riches. Haslem is as good a low-post scorer as there is. Bonner stands out in the lunch-pail crowd. Lee and White are jaw-dropping talents who should be two of the nation's elite freshmen.

5. Duke (Carlos Boozer, Matt Christensen, **Mike Dunleavy**, Nick Horvath, **Dahntay Jones**, Casey Sanders). Dunleavy is fast emerging as a money player; he's just beginning to show what he can do. Boozer hasn't been as good as he should be, but he still gets his points down low. Rutgers transfer

Jones has a skilled, varied game and will fill several roles.

6. Memphis (Earl Barron, Modibo Diarra, Duane Erwin, Chris Massie, **Kelly Wise**). In a time when skilled big men are rare, the Tigers have two in Barron and Wise, both future NBA players. If teams become too preoccupied with chasing guard Dajuan Wagner around, these two should clean up inside. Massie is a celebrated JC recruit.

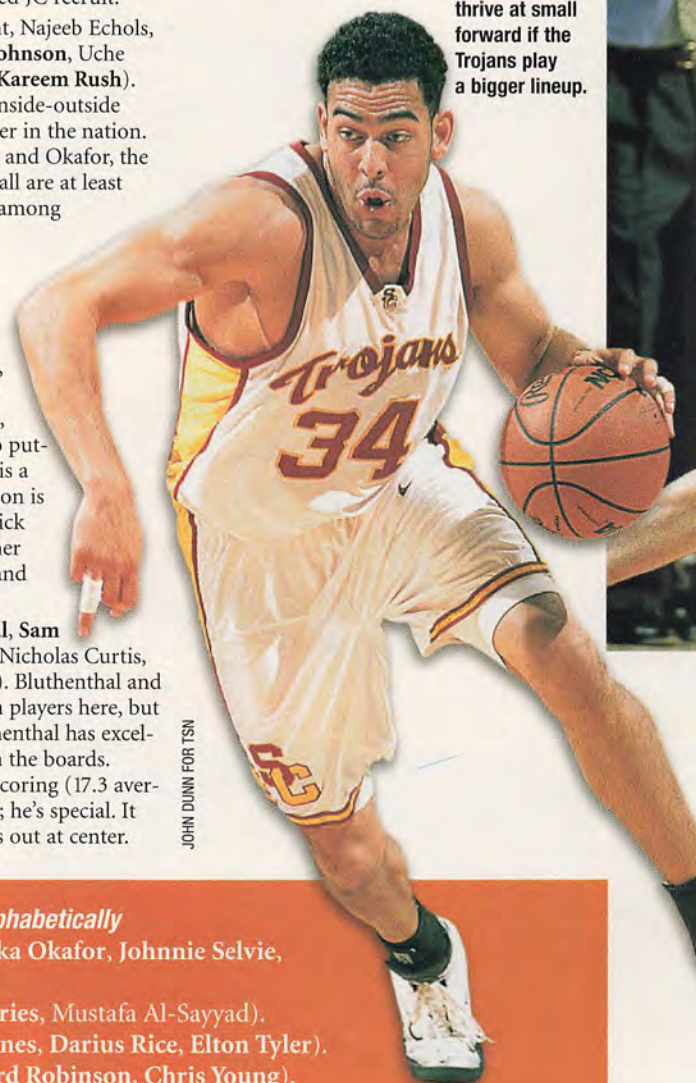
7. Missouri (Travon Bryant, Najeeb Echols, Jeffrey Ferguson, **Arthur Johnson**, Uche Okafor, **Rickey Paulding**, **Kareem Rush**). Rush, with his wondrous inside-outside game, is the best pure scorer in the nation. Bryant, Ferguson, Johnson and Okafor, the best JC big man available, all are at least 6-9, and there's not a stiff among them. Keep an eye on Paulding, who is rising.

8. Illinois (Robert Archibald, Brian Cook, Blandon Ferguson, **Lucas Johnson**, Damir Krupalija, Roger Powell). Cook is an erratic player, but he is big, skilled and may be close to putting it together. Archibald is a warrior in the paint. Johnson is a big-time pest who can stick a 3. Krupalija and newcomer Powell provide versatility and punch as reserves.

9. USC (David Bluthenthal, Sam Clancy, **Kostas Charissis**, Nicholas Curtis, Jerry Dupree, Rory O'Neil). Bluthenthal and Clancy are the only proven players here, but boy, are they players. Bluthenthal has excellent range and is strong on the boards. Clancy led the Trojans in scoring (17.3 average) and rebounding (7.5); he's special. It will help if Charissis works out at center.

10. Maryland (Lonny Baxter, **Tahj Holden**, **Byron Mouton**, Ryan Randall, Chris Wilcox). Baxter is the man underneath. He has nifty and nimble moves for his bulk. Holden, with his size and skill, is an intriguing talent. Mouton provides energy and scoring.

Bluthenthal can thrive at small forward if the Trojans play a bigger lineup.



JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Ten other formidable frontcourts *Listed alphabetically*

Connecticut (Justin Brown, Caron Butler, Scott Hazelton, Emeka Okafor, Johnnie Selvie, Robert Swain).

Fresno State (Melvin Ely, Noel Felix, Hiram Fuller, Chris Jefferies, Mustafa Al-Sayyad).

Miami (Rafael Berumen, Rodrigue Djahue, Wil Frisby, James Jones, Darius Rice, Elton Tyler).

Michigan (Chuck Bailey, LaVell Blanchard, Josh Moore, Bernard Robinson, Chris Young).

North Carolina (Brian Bersticker, Jason Capel, Neil Fingleton, Kris Lang, Jawad Williams).

South Florida (Mike Bernard, Brandon Brigman, Greg Brittian, Kelvin Brown, Altron Jackson, Will McDonald, Gerrick Morris, B.B. Waldon).

Tennessee (Brandon Crump, Marcus Haislip, Ron Slay, Derek Stribling, Elgrace Wilborn, Vincent Yarbrough).

Texas (Brian Boddicker, Brandon Mouton, Chris Ogden, Chris Owens, James Thomas, Chris Wright, William Wyatt).

Virginia (Elton Brown, Jason Clark, Adam Hall, J.C. Mathis, Travis Watson, Chris Williams).

Xavier (Ryan Caldwell, Will Caudle, Anthony Coleman, Kevin Frey, Keith Jackson, David West, Dave Young).

BACKCOURTS



Blake averaged 3.1 turnovers a game last season, but he also had 6.9 assists a game.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

1. Duke (Chris Duhon, Daniel Ewing, Jason Williams). Coach K could start alongside Williams and this backcourt still would rank in the top 10. Duhon is ready to be a star whenever the Blue Devils need him. Until then, he'll be a stunning complementary player. Ewing, a McDonald's All-American, provides depth.

2. St. Joseph's (Tyrone Barley, Pat Carroll, Na'im Crenshaw, Jameer Nelson, Marvin O'Connor, Delonte West). Roll your eyes if you must, but these guys are legit. Nelson dishes and O'Connor scores as well as anyone at point guard and shooting guard, respectively. Veteran Crenshaw is a nice complementary part. Keep an eye on West, whose stock climbed during his senior year of high school.

3. Maryland (Steve Blake, Andre Collins, Juan Dixon, Michael Grinnon, Drew Nicholas). The skinny on the skinny Dixon is that his fat scoring numbers (18.2 ppg) speak for themselves. Blake can be turnover prone, but he also is a gamer and a creative playmaker. The versatile

Nicholas is competent as his backup.

4. Florida (Teddy Dupay, Orien Greene, LaDarius Halton, Justin Hamilton, Brett Nelson). Nelson may have the best handle of anyone, and he is oh so dangerous from anywhere around the 3-point arc. Though raw, Greene is 6-4, talented and can play either spot. Dupay is a deep threat.

5. Illinois (Cory Bradford, Sean Harrington, Luther Head, Brett Melton, Frank Williams). Williams is one of the precious few who can dominate a game. He usually knows just what his team needs. Bradford and Harrington are one-dimensional shooters but can carry a team when hot. Freshman Head is athletic and should help.

6. Stanford (Julius Barnes, Josh Childress, Tony Giovacchini, Chris Hernandez, Casey Jacobsen, Kyle Logan, Matt Lottich). The key will be if holdovers

Barnes and Giovacchini or newcomer Hernandez can handle the point. On the wing, the Cardinal is fine with Jacobsen, the best pure shooter in college basketball, and Childress, a McDonald's All-American.

7. Gonzaga (Kyle Bankhead, Winston Brooks, Dan Dickau, Germaine Forbes, Alex Hernandez, Anthony Reason, Blake Stepp). Combine Dickau's points and assists averages, you get 25.2. That's better than Troy Bell, (24.5) Brett Nelson (19.6) and Frank Williams (19.3). Stepp lived up to his advanced billing. Hernandez came on strong late. Bankhead and Forbes are 3-point specialists.

8. Michigan State (Alan Anderson, Chris Hill, Marcus Taylor, Kelvin Torbert). Experience and depth are missing, talent isn't. Taylor could have a Frank Williams-type of breakout as a sophomore. Torbert should be a top candidate for national freshman of the year. Anderson, another top-50 recruit, should contribute.

9. Alabama (Rod Grizzard, Terrance

Meade, Antoine Pettway, Earnest Shelton, Travis Stinnett, Maurice Williams).

Remember the name of freshman point guard Williams; he could be an integral part in getting Bama over its hump. Grizzard is an inconsistent shooter, but he did average 17 points as a sophomore. Meade is a double-digit scorer. Stinnett is the steadiest shooter of the group.

10. Boston College (Troy Bell, Ryan Sidney, Kenny Walls, Jermaine Watson). Bell is a national player-of-the-year candidate, an out-of-nowhere success story. Sidney is a poor 3-point shooter but a competent scorer. Combo guard Watson is coach Al Skinner's top incoming recruit.

Ten other formidable backcourts

Listed alphabetically

Cincinnati (Taron Barker, Steve Logan, Immanuel McElroy, Leonard Stokes, Field Williams).
Iowa (Brody Boyd, Ryan Hogan, Chauncey Leslie, Pierre Pierce, Luke Recker, Marcellus Sommerville)

Kansas (Brett Ballard, Jeff Boschee, Kirk Hinrich, Keith Langford, Michael Lee, Aaron Miles).
Louisville (Erik Brown, Reece Gaines, Carlos Hurt, Larry O'Bannon).

LSU (Torriss Bright, Ronald Dupree, Antonio Hudson, Collis Temple III, Xavier Whipple, Jermaine Williams, JueMichael Young).

Memphis (Antonio Burks, John Grice, Scooter McFadgon, Anthony Rice, Courtney Trask, Dajuan Wagner).

NC State (Clifford Crawford, Anthony Grundy, Julius Hodge, Archie Miller, Scooter Sherrill).

Ohio State (Brian Brown, Brent Darby, Boban Savovic, Sean Connolly, Brandon Fuss-Cheatham).

Oklahoma State (Maurice Baker, Cheyne Gadson, Aaron Hill, Melvin Sanders, Victor Williams).
Seton Hall (John Allen, Andre Barrett, Darius Lane, Ty Shine).

SOUTHEASTERN

BY MIKE STRANGE

Two new coaches, of different generations but with common ACC roots, join the fraternity this season. Both Buzz Peterson of Tennessee and Dave Odom of South Carolina are about to discover just how brutal life can be in the SEC East Division, where Kentucky and Florida remain loaded.

Peterson, 37, played at North Carolina and was the front-runner to replace Jerry Green in Knoxville even before leading Tulsa to the NIT title. Odom, 58, took Wake Forest to eight NCAA Tournaments in 12 years. Now he has to prove he can bring new energy to the Gamecocks, who ran out of steam under Eddie Fogler. In the West, Ole Miss' Rod Barnes silenced any doubters by winning several national coach of the year honors last season.

Though Kentucky and Florida remain prohibitive favorites in the East, the West race is a wide-open scramble. Talent-wise,

the SEC is loaded.

Thirteen of the top 15 scorers from last year return. Four players—Joe Johnson of Arkansas, D.A. Layne of Georgia, Gerald Wallace of Alabama and Jamison Brewer of Auburn—left early for the NBA draft, as did LSU signee Kedrick Brown. At Kentucky, when Tayshaun Prince and Keith Bogans dropped out of the draft to return to school, Tubby Smith was left with 16 players on scholarship.

Three—Marquis Estill, Todd Tackett and Cory Sears—volunteered to become walk-ons.

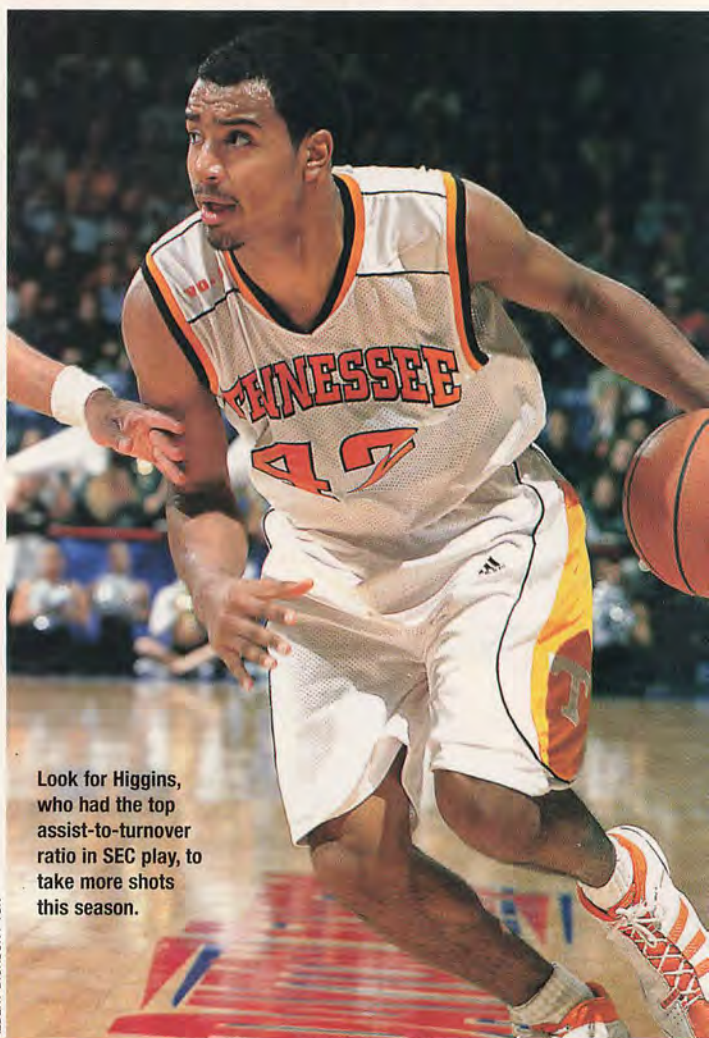
At Florida, Billy Donovan remains in recruiting overdrive. He already has filled four scholarships for the 2002 class with blue-chip commitments.

ASCENDING: LSU, if only slightly. John Brady deserved coach of the year consideration for squeezing 13 wins out of last year's depleted roster. Star Ronald Dupree will have a deeper supporting cast this year, especially in the paint, with the arrival of two junior college transfers and the return of Brad Bridgewater, who was injured last season. Too bad a third junior college player, Brown, opted for the NBA. If Brady can get the Tigers to play as hard this year as last, they'll make a big leap from last year's 2-14 SEC record.

DESCENDING: Georgia made a nice move in Jim Harrick's second year, getting to 9-7 in the league and receiving an NCAA Tournament bid. Now, a step back is likely. Layne's decision to try to reach the NBA—a mistake since he wasn't drafted—means the Bulldogs lose a total of 68 percent of their scoring output. The inside game is gutted with the losses of Anthony Evans, Shon Coleman and Robb Dryden. Ezra Williams is the only returnee who scored more than 4.7 points per game last season.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Rahim Lockhart, Mississippi. The widebody was a key to the Rebels' winningest season



Look for Higgins, who had the top assist-to-turnover ratio in SEC play, to take more shots this season.

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Mike Strange, Knoxville News-Sentinel
Bob Holt, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Predictions

East

1. Florida*
2. Kentucky*
3. South Carolina*
4. Tennessee*
5. Vanderbilt
6. Georgia

West

1. Alabama*
2. Mississippi*
3. Arkansas
4. Auburn
5. LSU
6. Mississippi State

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brett Nelson, Florida	6-3	182	Jr.
F	Tayshaun Prince, Kentucky	6-9	215	Jr.
F	Ronald Dupree, LSU	6-6	210	Jr.
F	Justin Reed, Mississippi	6-8	225	So.
C	Udonis Haslem, Florida	6-8	246	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jannero Pargo, Arkansas	6-2	165	Sr.
G	Keith Bogans, Kentucky	6-5	205	Jr.
G	Rod Grizzard, Alabama	6-8	205	Jr.
F	Vincent Yarbrough, Tennessee	6-7	210	Sr.
F	Erwin Dudley, Alabama	6-8	240	Jr.

Player of the Year

Tayshaun Prince, Kentucky

Newcomer of the Year

David Lee, F, Florida

Honor Roll

- Best shooter: Jon Higgins, Tennessee
Best rebounder: Erwin Dudley, Alabama
Best playmaker: Brett Nelson, Florida
Best defender: Tayshaun Prince, Kentucky
Best dunker: Marcus Haislip, Tennessee
Best under 6-0: Aaron Lucas, South Carolina
Best over 7-0: Marcus Campbell, Mississippi State
Most versatile: Ronald Dupree, LSU
Most flamboyant: Ron Slay, Tennessee
Best NBA prospect: Brett Nelson, Florida

in history. He averaged 13 points, but, more important, snagged 8.1 rebounds a game, shot 55.4 percent and blocked 49 shots. The only place Lockhart, a physical presence at both ends of the court as well as an emotional leader, won't be missed is at the free-throw stripe, where he was a liability. The Rebels probably will try a tag-team approach at center featuring junior John Gunn and newcomer Derrick Allen, a junior college transfer who didn't play last year because of knee problems.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Tennessee guard Jon Higgins quietly keeps plugging along while some of his more touted teammates blow hot and cold. Higgins draws the tough perimeter defensive assignments, seldom turns the ball over and last winter hit an SEC-best 55.6 percent from 3-point range in league play. His assist-to-turnover ratio was also the best in league games. New coach Peterson loves Higgins' stroke and footwork and wants the

junior to double his shots this year.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER:

Alabama's Rod Grizzard is one of the top scorers in the league, but he has to launch a barrage of shots to get there. Grizzard, a 6-8 guard/forward, shot only 39.8 percent from the field, 32.7 percent from 3-point range. He took 98 more shots than anyone else on the team, including center Erwin Dudley, who converted a crisp 52.9 percent of his attempts. Grizzard gets to the boards and is an excellent free-throw shooter, but he also led Alabama with 91 turnovers.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Rick Stansbury deserves more time at Mississippi State, but he needs to show progress in his fourth year. Stansbury is 20-28 in SEC play in three years at State, his first head-coaching job. His veteran-dominated team was a disappointment last season, settling for a second NIT bid in three years. This is a rebuilding season, especially with center Robert Jackson transferring. Archival Ole Miss' recent successes on the court and in recruiting make things tougher on the likable Stansbury.

BEST BETS: Florida's Brett Nelson will be NBA-bound after leading the Gators to the Sweet 16. ... Vanderbilt will discover that a Greg LaPointe with a bad back was a lot better than no Greg LaPointe at all. ... Marcus Campbell of Mississippi State will make the SEC All-Freshman team, with David Lee and James White of Florida and Alabama's Maurice Williams.

TSN

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Ronald Dupree	LSU	17.3
Rod Grizzard	Alabama	17.0
Keith Bogans	Kentucky	17.0
Tayshaun Prince	Kentucky	16.9
Udonis Haslem	Florida	16.8
Marquis Daniels	Auburn	15.7
Name	School	RPG
Erwin Dudley	Alabama	10.0
Ronald Dupree	LSU	8.8
Matt Bonner	Florida	7.7
Udonis Haslem	Florida	7.5
Vincent Yarbrough	Tennessee	7.4
Name	School	APG
Brett Nelson	Florida	4.3
Torris Bright	LSU	4.1
Aaron Lucas	South Carolina	3.9
Rashad Wright	Georgia	3.3
Russell Lakey	Vanderbilt	3.1
Name	School	FG%
Udonis Haslem	Florida	59.7
Erwin Dudley	Alabama	52.9
Marquis Daniels	Auburn	52.2
Tayshaun Prince	Kentucky	49.5
Ronald Dupree	LSU	48.5

RANKING THE RECRUITING

- 1. Florida:** Despite losing Kwame Brown to the NBA, the Gators have impact Fs David Lee, James White.
- 2. Kentucky:** SG Rashaad Carruth is the gem in a class that's solid but not dripping with blue-chippers.
- 3. Auburn:** JC SG Derrick Bird has great credentials. F Marco Killingsworth is another nice catch.
- 4. LSU:** Two JC transfers beef up the inside game, but star Kedrick Brown jumped to the NBA.
- 5. Alabama:** PG Maurice Williams is a future star. Rodney Bias makes up for loss of signee Kei Madison.
- 6. Tennessee:** JC G Thaydeus Holden, Buzz Peterson's first signee, must have an impact.
- 7. Mississippi State:** One 7-footer, Marcus Campbell, could start. The other, Wesley Morgan, is a project.
- 8. Mississippi:** G Jonathan Loe, one of five signees, was home schooled until his senior year.
- 9. Vanderbilt:** It failed to land hometown C David Harrison but beat Tennessee for Jason Holwerda.
- 10. Arkansas:** G J.J. Sullinger is joined by a couple of athletic sleepers who could become serviceable.
- 11. South Carolina:** Dave Odom brought C John Chappell from Wake Forest's recruiting list.
- 12. Georgia:** Jarrod Gerald did not qualify. Larry Turner, Michael Dean Liggins might qualify at semester.

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
East Division								
Kentucky*	12	4	24	10	11	1	13	9
Florida*	12	4	24	7	13	2	11	5
Georgia*	9	7	16	15	8	4	8	11
Tennessee*	8	8	22	11	12	3	10	8
South Carolina+	6	10	15	15	10	6	5	9
Vanderbilt	4	12	15	15	12	7	3	8
West Division								
Mississippi*	11	5	27	8	15	1	12	7
Arkansas*	10	6	20	11	16	2	4	9
Alabama+	8	8	25	11	17	1	8	10
Mississippi State+	7	9	18	13	13	4	5	9
Auburn+	7	9	18	14	12	5	6	9
LSU	2	14	13	16	9	7	4	9

*Received NCAA bid. +Received NIT bid.



TEAM STATS

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Florida	31	48.1	72.9	38.3	36.9	17.4	8.7	3.7	14.5	80.9
Tennessee	33	45.9	68.0	36.9	39.3	16.0	7.1	5.8	16.0	80.8
Arkansas	31	44.3	69.0	36.8	35.5	15.3	11.8	4.0	14.5	79.9
Kentucky	34	48.2	65.5	34.6	38.6	15.9	6.7	4.4	15.1	79.8
Auburn	32	44.9	65.1	30.8	38.8	15.5	8.3	4.8	14.1	77.4
Alabama	36	43.3	69.8	32.6	42.2	12.3	7.1	4.4	15.2	76.7
Mississippi State	31	44.7	65.9	31.9	41.2	13.7	6.6	3.0	15.5	74.9
Georgia	31	46.4	67.2	34.5	38.5	15.3	6.4	4.8	15.7	72.8
LSU	29	44.3	69.2	35.7	35.2	15.1	8.9	2.2	15.6	71.3
Mississippi	35	44.2	65.4	34.2	35.1	14.3	8.1	3.3	14.3	71.3
Vanderbilt	30	42.0	70.6	32.4	35.6	14.6	7.0	2.5	14.4	70.6
South Carolina	30	41.7	67.3	30.2	35.9	13.7	8.6	3.0	14.7	68.1
Opponents' stats										
Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Mississippi	35	42.0	66.8	29.6	35.2	10.6	6.4	3.8	17.1	64.6
South Carolina	30	43.3	63.3	34.5	37.4	13.9	7.7	3.2	15.6	67.1
Florida	31	42.0	63.6	30.1	34.5	13.5	6.6	2.8	16.5	67.1
LSU	29	43.6	67.1	36.9	34.3	14.1	7.7	2.6	16.7	68.2
Arkansas	31	40.4	66.5	30.6	41.2	12.0	6.1	3.4	21.5	68.8
Alabama	36	41.1	68.5	31.3	34.9	11.8	7.2	3.0	15.1	68.9
Kentucky	34	40.5	68.5	35.4	35.7	12.5	6.8	2.4	16.2	70.6
Mississippi State	31	42.5	68.7	34.0	33.3	12.5	6.5	3.7	14.6	70.6
Vanderbilt	30	45.1	65.5	34.6	35.2	14.0	7.5	4.6	15.2	70.7
Georgia	31	43.4	68.3	34.8	33.8	12.8	8.6	4.1	13.2	72.8
Auburn	32	42.3	68.3	33.0	38.0	15.3	6.9	3.1	16.4	73.1
Tennessee	33	41.5	67.7	34.4	39.2	13.9	7.8	3.5	15.5	75.6

1. Florida

National Rank: 4

Schedule

N8-9 Coaches v. Cancer Cl.
 N16 Florida State
 N28 at New Hampshire
 D1 Tulane
 D5 Michigan State
 D8 at South Florida
 D15 Charlotte*
 D18 High Point
 D22 New Orleans
 D28 Stetson
 D30 Belmont
 J5 South Carolina
 J9 at Tennessee
 J12 at Vanderbilt
 J16 Louisiana State
 J19 Georgia
 J26 at Arkansas
 J29 Kentucky
 F2 Mississippi State
 F5 at South Carolina
 F9 Vanderbilt
 F12 at Georgia
 F16 at Mississippi
 F20 Auburn
 F23 at Alabama
 F26 Tennessee
 M2 at Kentucky
 *at Miami

FRONT COURT:

Kwame Brown would have been an interesting addition, but the prized signee was instead the top choice in the NBA draft. Don't cry for Florida, though, because Udonis Haslem is the best post player in the league. Back for his senior year, Haslem again will profit from the wealth of talent around him. The perimeter marksmen make it difficult for defenses to collapse on Haslem, and Billy Donovan's system does a good job of getting his big guy the ball in one-on-one situations, where he excels. Haslem averaged 16.8 points and shot 59.7 percent

last season. Big forward Matt Bonner can play with his back to the basket or facing it. He boosted his scoring average to 13.3 points per game as a sophomore by knocking down 38.1 percent of his 3-point tries. The departures of seniors Brent Wright and Major Parker clear the deck for a pair of prep All-American newcomers, David Lee and James White. Lee has been compared to former Gator Mike Miller but prefers to play with his back to the basket. He is the highest-ranked freshman coming into the SEC this year. Sophomore Bonell Colas, who can relieve Haslem, has added muscle and is due for more than the 8.5 minutes he averaged last year. White could slide into an open niche at small forward and compete with Orien Greene and LaDarius Halton. Power forward Adrian Moss was a late recruiting steal, effectively taking Brown's vacant scholarship.

BACKCOURT: Florida fans are thrilled to get another year out of Brett Nelson, who could have headed to the NBA after his sophomore season. Nelson has All-American potential and a complete offensive game. He's a gifted distributor at the point. However, he's

Florida is better off with Nelson at off-guard than at the point position.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

more comfortable at shooting guard, where he can think scoring first, as his 15.3 scoring average indicated. Nelson's 3-point stroke improved to 45.3 percent last year, and he can get his own shot. He's the guy Florida wants with the ball at crunch time. Teddy Dupay hopes to avoid a repeat of last year's injuries and put a controversial summer of allegations about associations with a book-maker behind him. Dupay has down-town range and should shoot better than last year's 37.1 percent behind the arc. He must work hard on defense to compensate for his lack of size. Combo guard Justin Hamilton is back at full speed after an injury-shortened 14-game season. He could return to the point or even wind up as a wing/small forward in a small lineup. Greene is another athletic guard who struggled with his shot as a freshman and might find playing time at a wing. The same goes for Halton.

STRATEGY: Donovan's best strategy is his relentless recruiting. In short, he stocks the roster with exceptional players. But that's just the beginning. Donovan pushes the right buttons to get a frenetic effort out of his prep All-Americans. The uptempo offense and pressure defense only work when you play it hard and play it smart, and Donovan generally gets his teams to do both. That said, Florida's halfcourt

offense is also one of the league's best.

KEYS TO THE SEASON: The Gators need immediate help at small forward. White appears to be a natural, but Lee's overall talent will get him on the court in some capacity. Florida has a first five that can play with anybody, assuming one of the freshmen can step in immediately at small forward. The Gators also have more depth than last year, which is conducive to Donovan's uptempo game. Hamilton is like a third starter at guard, and he might be in the starting five. Colas and Greene need to be more productive (and should be) as sophomores. The Gators learned a painful lesson in last year's NCAA Tournament, allowing Temple to control the tempo. If Florida can avoid a similar pothole, the team has the horses to make it to the Final Four for the second time in three seasons.

Gators Data

Coach: Billy Donovan (102-56, 5 years; 137-76 overall, 7 years; 8-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Anthony Grant (5 years), Donnie Jones (5), John Pelphrey (5).

2000-2001 record: 24-7. SEC East: 12-4/T1st. Lost to Temple in NCAA South second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 12.

Last league title: 2001 (tie, SEC East).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Gainesville, Fla.

Website: www.gatorzone.com

Home court: O'Connell Center (12,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
15	F	Matt Bonner*	Concord, N.H.	6-10/237	Jr.	13.3	7.7	1.5	51.4	66.4	38.1
42	F	Bonell Colas	Miami	6-9/205	So.	3.0	2.0	0.3	58.3	73.1	—
5	G	Teddy Dupay*	Fort Meyers, Fla.	5-11/178	Sr.	13.4	2.3	2.8	40.7	81.7	37.1
1	G	Orien Greene	Gainesville, Fla.	6-4/200	So.	3.4	2.3	2.7	35.4	75.0	25.0
23	G	LaDarius Halton	New Smyrna, Fla.	6-4/200	Jr.	3.2	1.5	1.4	37.8	68.2	28.3
12	G	Justin Hamilton	Sarasota, Fla.	6-3/207	Jr.	6.6	1.8	2.7	40.2	75.0	25.8
50	C	Udonis Haslem*	Miami	6-8/246	Sr.	16.8	7.5	1.0	59.7	70.9	—
2	G	Ronnie King	Brandon, Fla.	5-11/178	Sr.	An athletic walk-on who hasn't played much. Can shoot from the perimeter and score inside.					
24	F	David Lee	St. Louis	6-8/224	Fr.	A force on the boards and a strong shot blocker.					
4	F	Adrian Moss	Houston	6-8/203	Fr.						
10	G	Brett Nelson*	St. Albans, W.Va.	6-3/182	Jr.	15.3	2.7	4.3	45.0	80.0	45.3
21	G	James White	Kensington, Md.	6-6/172	Fr.	McDonald's All-American can dunk with authority.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Major Parker*	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	6-4/218	5.1	3.4	1.6	42.6	56.5	39.3
F	Brent Wright	Miami	6-9/235	12.7	6.2	1.7	57.9	80.9	57.7

2. Kentucky

National Rank: 5

Schedule

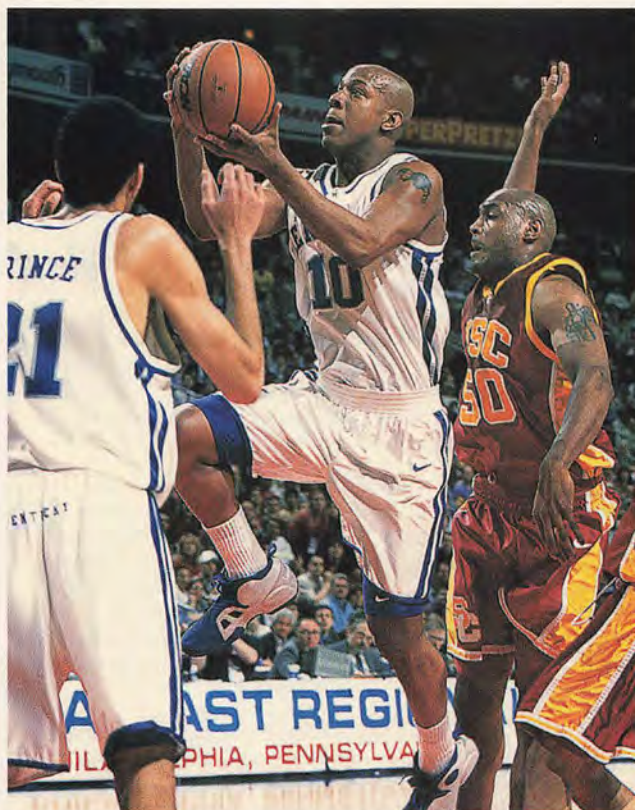
N15-16 NABC Classic
N24 Morehead State
N28 at Kent
D5 VMI
D8 North Carolina
D15 Kentucky State
D18 at Duke
D22 at Indiana
D29 Louisville
J2 Tulane
J5 at Mississippi St.
J9 Georgia
J12 at South Carolina
J15 Mississippi
J19 at Notre Dame
J22 at Auburn
J26 Alabama
J29 at Florida
F2 South Carolina
F6 at Tennessee
F9 at LSU
F13 Vanderbilt
F16 at Georgia
F19 Tennessee
F23 Arkansas
F27 at Vanderbilt
M2 Florida

FRONTCOURT: The good news is sophomore center Jason Parker should recover from summer knee surgery in time for the SEC campaign. The better news is that even if he doesn't, Kentucky still is loaded in the paint. Parker is valuable because he's a big body. But with Jules Camara coming off a suspension season, Parker would have had to fight for his minutes. Camara is long, lean and athletic but vulnerable to being pushed around. He averaged 7.2 points in 20 minutes a game two years ago. There's also Marvin Stone, who can play either inside spot. Stone's career hasn't met expectations, but he could build momentum in Parker's early absence. SEC Player of the Year Tayshaun Prince was most comfortable after an early-season move from small forward to power forward. Despite his thin physique, Prince has a long wingspan and enough smarts to be an imposing defender in the paint. He's not the least bit hesitant to shoot the crucial 3-pointer, either. Junior forward Marquis Estill would be a starter on most teams. Last season, he hit a team-best 60.3 percent from the field. Erik Daniels will

deliver a few productive minutes at small forward, but whom will he back up? Will it be All-SEC pick Keith Bogans, who moved from shooting guard to small forward last year, or Prince, who could move back out because of the glut of bodies inside?

BACKCOURT: Perhaps the biggest question on the team is who will replace point guard Saul Smith and run the team. The job is Cliff Hawkins' to lose. But Hawkins, a sophomore with jets, isn't a lock because he often tends to hurry. Also, his stamina has yet to be proved. J.P. Blevins is an option but mostly will stay in a reserve role. A more interesting option is letting the 6-9 Prince bring the ball up. Gerald Fitch, one of the pleasant surprises as a freshman, returns as a do-it-all guy at the other guard, but he could be coming off the bench if Bogans spends more time at shooting guard than small forward. Freshman Rashaad Carruth brings a reputation as an outside shooter that could get him minutes.

STRATEGY: Parker's injury scrambles plans for the non-conference season, but it could help Camara, Stone and even Estill get off to good starts. Coach Tubby Smith must decide what to do about the point and, in a repeat of last year, where to play Prince and Bogans. Last year's club was quicker (and more productive) with



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

Bogans thrived at small forward but might see time at off-guard again.

Prince at power forward, Bogans at small forward and Fitch at shooting guard. Prince is Mr. Clutch wherever he plays. If he and Camara line up together inside, opponents would have a weight advantage but would have a lot of shots blocked and altered. Bogans probably would prefer shooting guard, his future NBA position.

KEYS TO THE SEASON: With both Prince and Bogans pulling out of the NBA draft, there is quality to go with the quantity and experience. A run at the national title is within reach. None of the freshmen need feel pressure to contribute. Hawkins is the player who must come through. He doesn't have to score much, just take care of the ball and spread it around. One potential problem is finding enough minutes to keep the big men effective and content. It's a problem any coach would love to have. Smith is a proven motivator whose teams seldom underachieve over the long haul. The SEC East shapes up as a dogfight between Kentucky and Florida, which might be a prelude to the Final Four.

Wildcats Data

Coach: Orlando "Tubby" Smith (110-33, 4 years; 234-95 overall, 10 years; 18-7 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1998).

Assistant coaches: Mike Sutton (4 years), David Hobbs (1), Reggie Hanson (1).

2000-2001 record: 24-10. SEC East: 12-4/T1st. Lost to USC in NCAA East semifinal.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 10.

Last league title: 2001 (tie, SEC East).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.

Site: Lexington, Ky.

Website: www.ukathletics.com

Home court: Rupp Arena (23,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
3	G	J.P. Blevins	Edmonton, Ky.	6-2/181	Sr.	2.8	0.9	0.6	38.6	66.7	29.1
10	G/F	Keith Bogans*	Alexandria, Va.	6-5/205	Jr.	17.0	4.6	2.4	47.3	69.7	36.1
40	F/C	Jules Camara	Dakar, Senegal	6-11/225	Jr.						
	G	Josh Carrier	Bowling Green, Ky.	6-5/196	Fr.						
2	G	Rashaad Carruth	College Park, Ga.	6-3/195	Fr.						
00	G	Adam Chiles	Louisville	6-1/192	Fr.						
14	F	Erik Daniels	Cincinnati	6-7/200	So.	5.2	2.6	0.8	56.6	60.3	27.8
50	F	Marquis Estill	Richmond, Ky.	6-9/238	Jr.	7.3	3.8	0.6	60.3	73.1	31.3
4	G	Gerald Fitch*	Macon, Ga.	6-3/185	So.	6.8	4.4	1.9	45.5	69.0	40.8
1	G	Cliff Hawkins	Dumfries, Va.	6-1/185	So.	3.0	1.1	1.6	39.0	59.4	23.1
44	F	Chuck Hayes	Modesto, Calif.	6-7/237	Fr.						
15	G	Matt Heissenbuttel	Lexington, Ky.	6-4/190	So.	0.9	0.3	0.2	22.2	66.7	20.0
42	F/C	Jason Parker*	Charlotte	6-8/255	So.	8.6	4.7	0.6	55.2	39.8	—
21	F	Tayshaun Prince*	Compton, Calif.	6-9/215	Sr.	16.9	6.5	2.9	49.5	84.3	35.8
24	F/C	Marvin Stone	Huntsville, Ala.	6-10/248	Jr.	6.0	4.6	0.6	50.7	58.4	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Saul Smith*	Athens, Ga.	6-2/175	6.8	2.1	3.9	37.3	67.8	34.5

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

Excellent blocker; coming off one-year suspension.

Kentucky's Mr. Basketball last season.

Excellent shooter, he'll provide scoring option early.

Averaged 16.1 points in 23 minutes as a senior.

Has a solid perimeter game and a good handle.

3. South Carolina

National Rank: 38

FRONTCOURT: This is the strong suit for the Gamecocks. In Tony Kitchings, Rolando Howell and Marius Petravicius, the team has three decent players to divide minutes at the two post positions. At center, Kitchings, a junior, has a nice lefthanded touch. He averaged 10 points last year and can double that in the right matchup. Howell averaged 8.5 points and 5.1 rebounds as a freshman. He can improve those numbers as he develops touch to go with his athletic gifts. Petravicius' sophomore year was a clone of his freshman campaign: 8.5 points, 4.7 boards, 22 minutes, so new coach Dave Odom knows what he's getting. Petravicius lacks explosiveness but never effort. Small forward Chuck Eidson, who played 15 games last year before blowing out a knee, is heady and an exceptional ballhandler, but his shooting has been a disappointment. Of the newcomers, Issa Konare and JC transfer Chris Warren have a chance to play at small forward.

BACKCOURT: The returning tandem of Aaron Lucas and Jamel Bradley is strong on experience but won't carry a team. Lucas is a solid distributor at the point. Bradley is a streaky shooter with range. Both hovered in the mid-30s from 3-point range last year. Considering that Eidson hit a frigid 18.4 percent from behind the arc and Michael Boynton only 21.2 percent, the Gamecocks desperately need to improve their long-range attack to stretch the defense for the big men. Eidson can get minutes at shooting guard and possibly even the point.

STRATEGY: This isn't a team built for speed. Odom will have to play a controlled tempo to capitalize on his inside muscle. South Carolina seldom will be out of games. Even so, the Gamecocks must scrap to overcome offensive limitations. South Carolina will battle Tennessee for the plateau below Kentucky and Florida but above Georgia and Vanderbilt.

4. Tennessee

National Rank: 40

FRONTCOURT: The Vols must replace a pair of fifth-year seniors in Isiah Victor and defensive specialist Charles Hathaway. But the team could be more fundamentally sound in the paint. Ron Slay is ticketed to start at power forward, and though he is only 6-8, he can get his shot off inside with an array of moves or hit the 3-pointer. The center position remains a bit tenuous following the fall-semester suspension of Marcus Haislip. In his absence, watch for Brandon Crump, a 6-10 redshirt freshman with long arms, agility and an offensive touch. That small forward Vincent Yarbrough is back for his senior year indicates his game has not reached NBA standards as quickly as anticipated. He needs to add a dribble-drive move to complement his offensive glass skills and decent 3-point shot. Derek Stribling will be Yarbrough's understudy, and Elgrace Wilborn should add spot help on the boards.

BACKCOURT: New coach Buzz Peterson has no more pressing issue than determining who can run his team the way he wants it run. Thaydeus Holden played more off-guard in junior college but will be counted on to run the point. Peterson prefers steady Jon Higgins on the wing because he was the SEC's best 3-point marksman last year at 48.6 percent. Senior Del Baker is a defensive specialist. Jenis Grindstaff hopes to return to his pre-1999 knee injury level, and Stribling also can play some shooting guard.

STRATEGY: Peterson brings a fresh approach to a program that ran out of steam midway through last season. The Vols appear to have the athleticism to play the controlled, up-tempo style that Peterson prefers. He wants to play man-to-man defense and press and trap. Offensively, he wants to push the ball, but that will depend on whether Holden can avoid turnovers. Peterson just might have the credentials and sincerity to bring together "Team Me" and prod the Vols to a fifth consecutive NCAA Tournament.

Gamecocks Data

Coach: Dave Odom (1st year; 278-174 overall, 15 years; 10-8 NCAA record).
Assistant coaches: Rick Duckett (1st year); Ernie Nestor (1st year); Barry Sanderson (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 15-15. SEC: 6-10/5th East. Lost to Connecticut in

NIT first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 59.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Columbia, S.C.
Website: www.uscsports.com
Home court: Frank McGuire Arena (12,401).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
30	G	Michael Boynton	6-2/180	So.	2.2	1.0	1.5	29.4	37.5	21.2
10	G	Jamel Bradley*	6-2/170	Sr.	11.5	1.8	2.2	38.3	75.8	35.5
54	C	John Chappell	6-10/235	Fr.	A strong passer and solid rebounder.					
31	F	Chuck Eidson*	6-7/205	Jr.	9.0	5.3	3.1	32.1	73.5	18.4
4	F	Ivan Howell	6-7/215	Jr.	Must step up to fill the void on the wings.					
55	F/C	Rolando Howell	6-9/220	So.	8.5	5.1	0.3	52.8	67.9	—
50	C	Tony Kitchings*	6-10/260	Jr.	10.0	6.6	1.2	51.5	62.6	0.0
33	F	Issa Konare	6-7/220	Fr.	Also should add depth on the wings.					
5	G	Aaron Lucas*	5-11/185	Sr.	10.3	2.5	3.9	42.2	70.5	31.6
12	C	M. Petravicius*	6-10/250	Jr.	8.5	4.7	0.6	48.7	68.9	—
15	F	Carlos Powell	6-7/220	Fr.	Hard-nosed, hard-working player.					
21	G	Greg Taylor	6-5/180	So.	1.3	0.7	0.4	33.3	25.0	21.4
23	F	Chris Warren	6-5/195	Jr.	JC transfer averaged 17.1 ppg last year.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Calvin Clemmons	6-7/230	4.0	2.5	0.1	37.0	64.4	0.0
F	Antonio Grant	6-5/230	7.9	5.8	1.3	42.0	61.8	32.7
F	David Ross	6-5/220	3.7	2.0	0.9	34.3	63.2	30.7

Schedule

D8	at Clemson	J16	at Arkansas	F9	Tennessee
N19-21	Maui Inv.	D18	South Caro. St.	J19	Vanderbilt
N26	E. Tennessee St.	D20	The Citadel	J23	at Tennessee
N28	at Wofford	D28	Char. Southern	J26	at Ole Miss
D1	Colorado State	D30	Mercer	J30	Georgia
D3	Providence	J5	at Florida	F2	at Kentucky
D6	Georgetown	J12	Kentucky	F5	Florida
				M2	Mississippi State

Volunteers Data

Coach: Buzz Peterson (1st year; 105-50 overall, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Chris Ferguson (4 years), Kerry Keating (1st year), Al Daniels (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 22-11. SEC East: 8-8/4th. Lost to Charlotte in NCAA

Midwest first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 6.
Last league title: 2000 (tie, SEC East).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Knoxville, Tenn.
Website: www.utsports.com
Home court: Thompson-Boling Arena (26,064).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
32	G	Del Baker	6-4/200	Sr.	Returning after redshirting with broken foot.					
3	F	Michael Collins	6-6/215	Fr.	Football player will be a hoops walk-on.					
4	C	Brandon Crump	6-10/210	Fr.	Redshirted last year; has offensive skills.					
24	G	Jenis Grindstaff	6-2/200	Sr.	3.1	1.4	1.7	31.3	76.5	25.5
12	F	Marcus Haislip	6-10/230	Jr.	5.8	2.5	0.5	51.6	75.7	35.9
42	G	Jon Higgins*	6-3/190	Jr.	6.5	3.5	2.4	46.7	64.5	48.6
10	G	Thaydeus Holden	6-0/180	Jr.	1st team JC conference pick with 22.2 ppg.					
34	F	Andy Ikeakor	6-8/245	So.	0.8	0.5	0.0	33.3	25.0	0.0
35	F	Ron Slay	6-8/225	Jr.	12.9	5.3	1.0	50.2	70.2	35.6
21	F	Derek Stribling	6-6/185	Fr.	Top 100 H.S. player averaged 20 points.					
15	F	Elgrace Wilborn	6-8/210	Fr.	Averaged 13.1 rebounds in senior year.					
1	F	Vincent Yarbrough*	6-7/210	Sr.	13.9	7.4	2.5	44.3	63.8	33.9

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Tony Harris*	6-0/165	11.4	2.0	3.8	35.8	77.4	34.6
C	Charles Hathaway*	6-10/265	5.1	4.8	0.5	64.9	60.3	—
F	Isiah Victor*	6-9/220	12.8	6.6	0.9	54.3	62.1	26.7
G	Harris Walker	6-1/170	Dismissed from team.					
G	Terrence Woods	6-3/185	Dismissed from team.					

Schedule

D20	at Louisville	J19	Syracuse	F9	at South Carolina
D22	West Virginia	J21	Middle Tenn. St.	F13	Arkansas
N16	Tennessee Tech	J23	South Carolina	F16	at Alabama
N21-24	Alaska Shoot.	J27	Auburn	F19	at Kentucky
N29	Appalachian St.	J30	at LSU	F23	Vanderbilt
D6	at SMU	F2	at Vanderbilt	F26	at Florida
D15	at Memphis	F6	Kentucky	M2	Georgia
D17	Radford				

5. Vanderbilt

National Rank: 72

FRONT COURT: Vandy lost only two seniors, but Greg LaPointe and Anthony Williams were the pillars of the inside game at both ends. Coach Kevin Stallings' choices are athletic but unskilled 7-footer Darius Coulibaly, who averaged under seven minutes a game last year; redshirt freshman Martin Schnedlitz, an unknown quantity; or David Przybyszewski, a signee from Poland who has never seen a U.S. college game, much less played in one. Matt Freije averaged 10.4 points as a rookie. He's not especially physical but has range. Freshman Brian Thornton probably will need to contribute. Sophomore Billy Richmond (8.8 ppg) is the small forward/wing. He's an SEC-caliber athlete with good potential but no outside shot. Freshman Corey Smith should compete with Scott Hundley for playing time at a wing.

BACK COURT: As a freshman, Russell Lakey was handed the ball and told to run the team. He should be better as a sophomore. Shooting guard Chuck Moore led Vandy in scoring last year (12 ppg) and brings a dose of needed athleticism. Sam Howard is back for his final campaign after a disappointing junior year in which his stroke largely was AWOL. Brendan Plavich is a designated shooter. Jason Holwerda, the prize of the freshman class, surely will battle for minutes at shooting guard or small forward.

STRATEGY: Stallings loves tough man-to-man defense, but he didn't have the horses to be effective last year. The Commodores were hopelessly young, relying on too many first-year players. Experience won't be as big a problem this year, and the freshmen, though not rated especially high, at least boost the overall athleticism. On the other hand, the lack of an inside game will be tough to overcome, especially with a perimeter cast that appears adequate at best. Stallings, a proven coach, will have his hands full trying to stay out of the cellar in the East.

Commodores Data

Coach: Kevin Stallings (34-26, 2 years; 157-89 overall, 8 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Tim Jankovich (2 years), Jeff Jackson (2), Brad Frederick (2).
2000-2001 record: 15-15. SEC:

4-12/6th East.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 120.

Last league title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Nashville.

Website: www.vuc commodores.com

Home court: Memorial Gym (14,168).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
20	G	Matt Carter	6-3/185	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
4	C	Darius Coulibaly	7-1/247	Sr.	1.0	1.0	0.1	29.6	59.1	—
35	G/F	Matt Freije*	6-9/210	So.	10.4	4.4	0.6	49.7	79.2	39.0
3	G/F	Jason Holwerda	6-5/200	Fr.	Twice named Tennessee Mr. Basketball.					
10	G	Sam Howard	6-3/193	Sr.	6.4	1.8	2.1	34.3	74.1	29.2
24	G/F	Scott Hundley	6-5/200	So.	3.3	2.3	0.8	45.3	75.0	30.0
11	G	Russell Lakey*	6-0/173	So.	5.4	3.0	3.1	39.9	45.1	36.2
15	G	Chris Messinger	6-3/190	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
25	G	Chuck Moore*	6-3/182	Sr.	12.0	3.5	1.8	39.4	79.7	35.0
5	G	Brendan Plavich	6-2/203	So.	5.3	0.8	0.8	33.8	30.0	34.3
13	C	Dave Przybyszewski	6-11/223	Fr.	Averaged 14 ppg, 7 rpg his senior season.					
12	G/F	Billy Richmond*	6-5/186	So.	8.8	2.4	2.2	34.8	72.6	19.6
42	F/C	Martin Schnedlitz	6-10/235	Fr.	Redshirted after knee injury last season.					
43	G/F	Corey Smith	6-5/230	Fr.	Versatile shooter will play at several spots.					
2	F	Brian Thornton	6-8/235	Fr.	Has good ball control for a big man.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Greg LaPointe*	6-10/260	11.5	5.4	1.8	55.6	69.7	50.0
F	Anthony Williams	6-7/245	9.1	7.9	1.7	49.5	73.2	25.7

Schedule

N16	Liberty	D10	at Tulane	J16	Auburn	F16	South Carolina
N19	at Connecticut	D20	American	J19	at South Carolina	F20	Mississippi State
N23-25	Hawaii Pac. Cl.	D22	E. Tennessee St.	J26	Georgia	F23	at Tennessee
N29	Cal Poly	D29	Morehead State	J30	at Mississippi	F27	Kentucky
D2	W. Kentucky	J5	at Georgia	F2	Tennessee	M2	at Arkansas
D5	SE Missouri St.	J9	at Alabama	F6	LSU		
		J12	Florida	F9	at Florida		
				F13	at Kentucky		

6. Georgia

National Rank: 97

FRONT COURT: Georgia's respectable inside game must be rebuilt from the ground up. Anthony Evans, Shon Coleman and Robb Dryden are gone, and with them 28 points and 17 rebounds a game. Stephen Thomas, coming off a nondescript freshman year, is the post option. Chris Daniels, who is more athletic than Thomas, will handle the power forward spot. Georgia needs him to score 8 or 9 points per game. Jarvis Hayes, a transfer from Western Carolina, looks like the small forward. Hayes is making a gamble moving up to the SEC, but based on practice last year, he'll make the transition in good shape. His twin brother, Jonas, will be a backup at power forward.

BACK COURT: D.A. Layne's decision to leave for the NBA came at a bad time, considering the loss of seniors Evans, Coleman and Dryden in the paint. Layne was a true scorer (16.8 ppg) and will be missed. Ezra Williams (12 ppg) will be a big contributor at off-guard. Shooting is not his strong point, but he's big and strong and a real plus on the boards. Rashad Wright handled the point guard role reasonably well as a freshman and will be more solid this winter. Distributing is his strong suit, not scoring. His 3-point shot needs work, and a point guard who shoots only 50.7 percent at the free-throw line is a liability.

STRATEGY: Coach Jim Harrick got a lot of mileage out of pounding the ball in to Evans and Coleman the past two years. Their presence helped free Layne for 3-point looks. Take all three out, and it's tough to figure where the scoring will come from. Williams and Hayes must be offensive-minded at all times. The same goes for Daniels, who should be good on the offensive glass. With a thin, inexperienced bench, Georgia doesn't have much margin for error. No team in the East lost more manpower and firepower than the Bulldogs, and an NCAA trip isn't in the cards.

Bulldogs Data

Coach: Jim Harrick (26-35, 2 years; 429-217 overall, 21 years; 17-14 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title with UCLA in 1995).
Assistant coaches: James Holland (2 years), Jim Harrick Jr. (1st year), Jeff Dunlap (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 16-15. SEC East:

9-7/3rd. Lost to Missouri in NCAA East first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 166.

Last league title: 1990.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Athens, Ga.

Website: www.georgiadogs.com

Home court: Segeman Coliseum (10,523).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
50	F	Chris Daniels	6-7/210	So.	3.5	2.6	0.7	48.1	64.3	100.0
-	G	Michael D. Liggins	6-2/170	Fr.	Not eligible for at least the fall semester.					
20	G	Jonathan Goss	6-1/185	Fr.	Ready to play after redshirting last season.					
10	G	Scott Hamilton	5-10/165	Sr.	0.6	0.1	0.1	25.0	100.0	0.0
24	G/F	Jarvis Hayes	6-6/200	So.	Better scorer at W. Carolina than Jonas.					
33	G/F	Jonas Hayes	6-6/200	So.	Eligible after transfer from W. Carolina.					
15	G	Mike Patrick	6-4/195	Jr.	1.5	0.8	0.6	35.3	50.0	25.0
14	F	Ryan Pevey	6-5/230	Sr.	1.6	0.8	0.1	71.4	75.0	0.0
55	F	Stephen Thomas	6-8/230	So.	2.1	2.9	0.3	37.0	45.5	0.0
-	C	Larry Turner	6-10/220	Fr.	Not eligible for at least the fall semester.					
5	G	Ezra Williams*	6-4/205	Jr.	12.0	4.2	2.3	41.7	75.7	29.7
3	G	Rashad Wright*	6-0/170	So.	4.7	3.0	3.3	34.8	50.7	31.9

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Shon Coleman*	6-6/215	10.0	5.2	0.9	55.4	59.6	0.0
C	Robb Dryden	7-1/265	6.8	3.9	0.8	51.7	63.2	—
F/C	Anthony Evans*	6-7/265	11.5	7.5	1.1	53.6	75.2	0.0
G	Adrian Jones	6-5/195	6.8	3.9	0.8	47.7	55.3	38.5
G	D.A. Layne*	6-0/190	16.8	3.0	3.5	44.1	80.6	39.6

Schedule

N16	Furman	D15	at S. Alabama	J16	Alabama	F9	at Auburn
N19	Georgetown*	D17	at Pepperdine	J19	at Florida	F12	Florida
N21	at Ga. Southern	D19-22	Rainbow Classic	J23	Arkansas	F16	Kentucky
N26	Samford	D28	at Georgia State	J26	at Vanderbilt	F23	LSU
D7	Minnesota	J5	Vanderbilt	J30	at South Carolina	F27	South Carolina
D9	Georgia Tech	J9	at Kentucky	F2	Mississippi	M2	at Tennessee
		J12	Tennessee	F6	at Mississippi St.		*at Springfield, Mass.

1. Alabama

National Rank: 19

Schedule

N13-14 Guardians Classic
 N26 Utah
 N29 McNeese State
 D3 Chattanooga
 D8 UCLA*
 D14 Jacksonville State
 D18 Temple**
 D21 Alabama A&M
 D27 Notre Dame***
 D31 Florida A&M
 J2 Bethune-Cookman
 J5 LSU
 J9 Vanderbilt
 J12 at Auburn
 J16 at Georgia
 J19 Mississippi State
 J26 at Kentucky
 J30 Arkansas
 F2 at LSU
 F6 Mississippi
 F9 at Mississippi St.
 F13 at South Carolina
 F16 Tennessee
 F20 at Arkansas
 F23 Florida
 F27 Auburn
 M2 at Mississippi
 *at Anaheim, Calif.
 **at East Rutherford, N.J.
 ***at New Orleans

FRONT COURT: Junior forward Erwin Dudley is a relentless rebounder on both ends. He led the SEC in rebounding at 10 per game last season, including a conference-best 4.1 on offense. He rarely takes ill-advised shots and will score well around the basket on post-up moves and stickbacks. He also is a decent free-throw shooter who figures to get fouled a lot. A hard worker, Dudley has improved steadily his first two seasons and should be among the SEC's top big men. Junior Kenny Walker has played inconsistently at times, but he closed last season with strong performances after briefly losing his starting job and should be ready to become a reliable contributor. He has a tendency to get in foul trouble but runs the floor well and has a good shooting touch. The big question inside is who will replace Gerald Wallace, who left after his freshman year and was a first-round NBA draft pick. It was hoped Rodney Bias, a JC transfer, might help, but it appears he will not be eligible this season. Sophomore Reggie Rambo is an unknown. Walker must step up his playing time if the Tide doesn't develop quality depth inside.

BACK COURT: Alabama figures to go with a three-guard lineup much of the time, led by juniors Rod Grizzard and Terrance Meade. Grizzard, at 6-8, has a scorer's mentality and creates a lot of matchup problems on the perimeter. He's going to draw a lot of fouls and hit a lot of free throws, but he needs to show better shot selection and cut down on his turnovers. Meade slumped as a 3-point shooter last season and needs to regain his freshman form, when he led the SEC (42.3 percent). Freshman Maurice Williams, a McDonald's All-American, might be ready to take over the starting point guard spot. That would allow junior Travis Stinnett, who started at the point in the latter half of last season, to come off the bench and focus on his strength, 3-point shooting. Sophomore Antoine Pettway, a surprising contributor as a freshman walk-on last season, is now on scholarship and should provide solid play off the bench at point guard. Freshman Earnest Shelton also figures to help in a reserve role. With the experience of Grizzard, Meade, Stinnett and Pettway, Williams and Shelton shouldn't feel too much pressure early and can work their way into the rotation and get significant playing time if they show they're ready.

STRATEGY: With its backcourt strength, the Tide figures to rely



The 6-8 Grizzard, who will lead a three-guard lineup for the Crimson Tide, creates a number of matchup problems for defenders on the perimeter.

heavily on its 3-point shooting and should have a nice inside-out game with Dudley and Walker providing the scoring down low.

KEY TO THE SEASON: To make its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1995, Alabama must show some toughness on the road. The Tide was a combined 1-15 in SEC road games the previous two seasons, but winning at Purdue in last year's NIT gave the players a confidence boost. Having a team led by juniors who have been starting since they were freshmen also should help Alabama overcome its road woes. This is a team with talent and experience and one that's hungry to prove itself after missing out on the NCAA Tournament when it struggled late last season.

Crimson Tide Data

Coach: Mark Gottfried (55-42, 3 years; 123-66 overall, 6 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Philip Pearson (3 years), T.R. Dunn (1), Orlando Early (1).

2000-2001 record: 25-11. SEC West: 8-8/3rd. Lost to Tulsa in NIT final.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 15.

Last league title: 1987.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Website: www.rolltide.com

Home court: Coleman Coliseum (15,043).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.
00	F	Rodney Bias	Livingston, Ala.	6-9/235	Jr.
35	F	Erwin Dudley*	Uniontown, Ala.	6-8/240	Jr.
21	G/F	Rod Grizzard*	Birmingham, Ala.	6-8/205	Jr.
14	G	Terrance Meade*	Scottsboro, Ala.	6-2/190	Jr.
50	G	Antoine Pettway	Camden, Ala.	6-0/165	So.
4	F	Reggie Rambo	Lena, La.	6-7/218	So.
5	G	Earnest Shelton	Memphis	6-3/190	Fr.
23	G	Demetrius Smith	Hogansville, Ga.	6-3/215	So.
22	G	Travis Stinnett*	Maryville, Tenn.	6-0/170	Jr.
42	F/C	Kenny Walker*	Jacksonville	6-9/220	Jr.
13	G/F	Lucky Williams	Nigeria	6-6/205	Fr.
25	G	Maurice Williams	Jackson, Miss.	6-1/183	Fr.

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Tarik London	Savannah, Ga.	6-1/200	2.6	1.4	2.7	40.5	68.4	23.1
G	Terrance "Doc" Martin	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	6-3/205	5.4	3.0	0.7	36.5	72.2	34.0
F	Gerald Wallace	Childersburg, Ala.	6-7/210	9.8	6.0	1.5	43.8	56.8	17.5

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
Touted JC recruit likely ineligible this season.					
14.4	10.0	1.0	52.9	60.6	—
17.0	6.1	2.1	39.8	81.2	32.7
10.8	2.9	1.3	40.8	75.8	34.5
2.9	1.1	1.6	41.2	58.6	33.3
0.4	0.4	0.0	18.2	—	0.0
Has a sweet shot; could get lots of time.					
0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
6.8	1.8	1.7	41.9	82.0	44.2
6.7	4.6	0.4	48.6	73.9	100.0
Might not be eligible to play until December.					
Averaged 26.9 ppg in high school.					

2. Mississippi

National Rank: 22

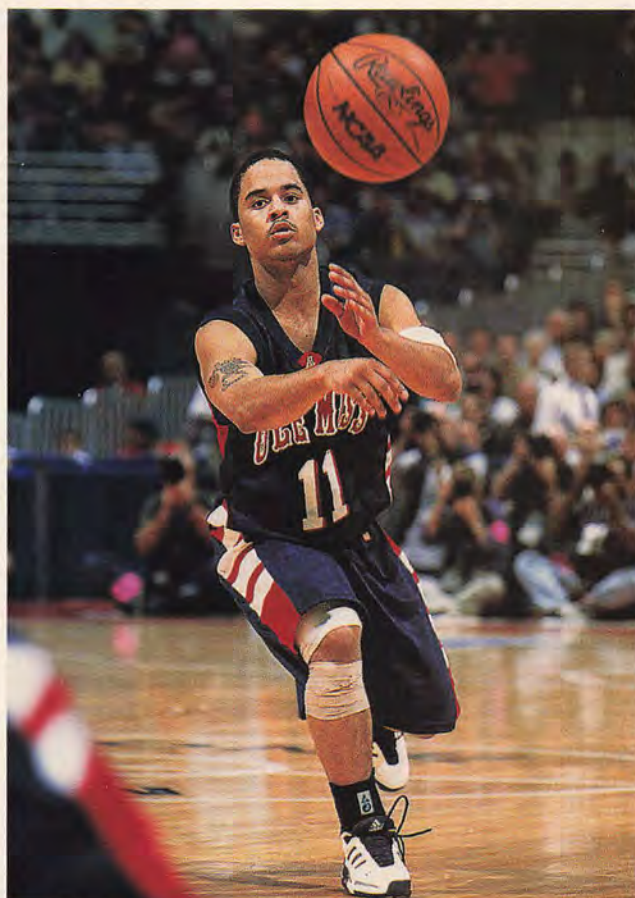
Schedule

N15-18 Top of the World Cl.
N25 at Kansas State
N28 Morris Brown
D1 George Mason
D3 Louisiana-Monroe
D7 Memphis
D16 Tennessee-Martin*
D21-22 Sun Bowl Cl.
D29 Ark.-Pine Bluff
J2 Lipscomb
J6 at Tennessee
J9 Auburn
J12 Mississippi State
J15 at Kentucky
J19 at Arkansas
J23 LSU
J26 South Carolina
J30 Vanderbilt
F2 at Georgia
F6 at Alabama
F9 Arkansas
F13 at Auburn
F16 Florida
F23 at Mississippi St.
F27 at LSU
M2 Alabama
*at Southaven, Miss.

FRONTCOURT: After being the SEC's top freshman last season, forward Justin Reed will be the Rebels' go-to player this season. He replaces Rahim Lockhart as the first option on offense and will be looking for more shots—both posting up inside and with an improved perimeter game. Reed worked hard in the off-season to become a better outside shooter, and he'll be on the floor more, driving to the basket, pulling up for jumpers and taking 3-pointers, as well as scoring inside. Coach Rod Barnes says he's confident Reed can meet the challenge, and Reed should relish his increased role on the team. Derrick Allen, a junior college transfer who redshirted last year because of a knee injury, will be counted on to be part of a tag team at center with junior John Gunn, who has shown in the past he can be effective in spot duty. Allen and Gunn need to help with rebounding, post defense and some inside scoring to help offset Lockhart's loss. Junior Richard Kirklin also will be counted on to contribute off the bench. He is a solid rebounder who plays well on the perimeter.

BACKCOURT: Jason Harrison, the Rebels' only senior, will be the little big man. He will be the starting point guard after playing the role of sparkplug off the bench. At 5-5, Harrison is one of the smallest players in college basketball, but he's not afraid to make the big plays and take pressure shots, like the 3-pointer he hit in the final minute against Notre Dame to help send Ole Miss to the Sweet 16 last season. Harrison offsets his size disadvantage by using his quickness to drive around opponents and draw fouls or draw the defense so he can pass to an open teammate inside. He'll be looking for his third consecutive season with more than 100 assists. Sophomore Aaron Harper is the Rebels' best 3-point threat. He had a team-high 63 treys last year. Junior David Sanders also provides perimeter scoring and attacks the basket well in the open court. Junior Emmanuel Wade and sophomore Josh Hayes both are solid players off the bench who will help at the shooting guard spots. A key is finding a player who can share the point guard duties with Harrison. The top candidate is freshman Justin Johnson, but he must show he can play at this level.

STRATEGY: Ole Miss should be a good perimeter-shooting team and has the depth and talent to score on the fast break. But the Rebels will continue to be built around their aggressive, physical,



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

At 5-5, Harrison is one of the game's smallest players, but he can hit the big shot, and his quickness helps him find teammates or draw fouls.

hard-nosed defense, which has been the foundation of Ole Miss' run of four NCAA Tournament appearances in the past five years. If a player isn't laying it on the line defensively, he won't play long.

KEY TO SUCCESS: Finding complementary players inside for Reed is vital. Lockhart was successful last season partly because opponents knew they had to watch Reed. Now Reed needs that same help from his teammates. With its talent at the guard spots, Ole Miss again should challenge for the SEC West title, provided the team can develop another inside threat. It's time people stopped underestimating Ole Miss and gave the Rebels their due as a new power both in the conference and nationally.

Rebels Data

Coach: Rod Barnes (66-35, 3 years; 3-2 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Marc Dukes (3 years), Eric Bozeman (3), Wayne Brent (3).
2000-2001 record: 27-8, SEC West; 11-5/T1st. Lost to Arizona in NCAA Midwest semifinals.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 87.
Last league title: 2001 (tie, SEC West).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Oxford, Miss.
Website: www.olemisssports.com
Home court: Tad Smith Coliseum (8,700).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
40	F	Derrick Allen	Gadsden, Ala.	6-8/225	Jr.	Learned the Ole Miss system while redshirting.					
4	F/G	Kendrick Fox	Oxford, Miss.	6-7/195	Fr.	All-State player as a senior and as a junior.					
31	F/C	John Gunn	Oxford, Miss.	6-10/250	Jr.	2.8	1.2	0.2	54.1	92.6	—
5	G/F	Aaron Harper	Jackson, Miss.	6-5/205	So.	9.2	2.9	2.0	35.2	75.0	35.4
11	G	Jason Harrison	Little Rock, Ark.	5-5/155	Sr.	7.1	1.9	2.9	36.2	83.3	37.9
30	F/G	Josh Hayes	Little Rock, Ark.	6-7/195	So.	2.0	0.6	0.2	52.6	66.7	42.9
12	G	Justin Johnson	Fayetteville, N.C.	6-0/185	Fr.	He'll be under Harrison's tutelage.					
22	G	Mario Jointer	Jackson, Miss.	6-2/175	Fr.	Showed knack for scoring in high school.					
45	F	Richard Kirklin	Pine Bluff, Ark.	6-9/210	Jr.	1.9	0.9	0.2	43.1	66.7	34.6
44	G	Jonathan Loe	Memphis	6-3/175	Fr.	Finished H.S. as a running and gunning All-Star.					
23	F	Justin Reed*	Jackson, Miss.	6-8/225	So.	11.0	5.9	0.8	47.8	54.9	13.0
33	F	Chris Rhodes	Stafford, Texas	6-7/215	Fr.	Played on four Texas state title teams.					
15	G	David Sanders*	Jackson, Miss.	6-3/185	Jr.	6.9	2.7	1.9	50.3	66.9	21.9
32	G	Emmanuel Wade	Marianna, Ark.	6-3/185	Jr.	4.4	1.8	0.9	42.4	72.0	33.3

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jason Holmes*	Tylertown, Miss.	6-5/205	6.3	2.6	1.8	37.6	76.9	34.7
G	Jason Flanigan*	Little Rock, Ark.	6-1/180	7.1	3.1	2.2	38.9	67.9	35.5
F	Rahim Lockhart*	Mendenhall, Miss.	6-8/255	13.0	8.1	0.9	55.4	47.8	0.0

3. Arkansas

National Rank: 55

FRONTCOURT: The Razorbacks will struggle to achieve consistent scoring inside. Junior forward Larry Satchell brings toughness, defense and rebounding but still isn't a polished offensive player. Junior Alonzo Lane has good moves around the basket, but he's closer to 6-5 than his listed 6-7 and can have trouble scoring against bigger opponents. Junior Carl Baker is the Razorbacks' best all-around forward. He can score, rebound and defend but is more comfortable playing outside than posting up. Redshirt freshman Michael Jones is 6-9 but lacks bulk and strength and likes to play on the perimeter.

BACKCOURT: This will be the team's strength with four senior guards—a rarity in college basketball these days—in Jannero Pargo, T.J. Cleveland, Brandon Dean and Teddy Gipson. Pargo is the team's best perimeter shooter and will have to score big on a consistent basis to help make up for the loss of Joe Johnson, the 10th overall pick in the NBA draft. Cleveland is steady, handles the ball well and can score when needed. Dean and Gipson have shown flashes of great play—Dean was the SEC Tournament MVP as a sophomore—but need to produce on a consistent basis. Juniors Blake Eddins and Charles Tatum should see quality playing time in the rotation along with freshman J.J. Sullinger, who is expected to add perimeter shooting.

STRATEGY: The Razorbacks, with a quick and athletic team, will rely heavily on their pressure defense to create turnovers that lead to easy baskets. They will shoot a lot of 3-pointers because they can't rely on consistent scoring inside. Though losing the versatile Johnson was a huge blow, coach Nolan Richardson has a knack for getting good mileage out of small, quick teams. An experienced backcourt should give Arkansas a chance to challenge for the West title and at least make the NIT.

Razorbacks Data

Coach: Nolan Richardson (376-155, 16 years; 495-192 overall, 21 years; 26-15 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1994).

Assistant coaches: Mike Anderson (14 years), Brad Dunn (10), Wayne Stehlik (16).

2000-2001 record: 20-11. SEC West:

10-6/2nd. Lost to Georgetown in NCAA West first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 22.

Last league title: 1995 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: Fayetteville, Ark.

Website: www.hogwired.com

Home court: Bud Walton Arena (19,200).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
4	F	Carl Baker*	6-8/210	Jr.	5.2	4.0	1.0	37.4	72.5	44.4
	G	Jamar Blackmon	6-1/200	So.	Eligible after move from Miss. Valley State.					
15	G	Carter Clark	6-5/205	So.	0.6	0.1	0.1	40.0	40.0	33.3
5	G	T.J. Cleveland	6-1/168	Sr.	7.5	2.3	2.7	41.1	75.0	36.1
13	G	Brandon Dean*	6-1/200	Sr.	8.2	2.2	1.9	43.1	61.8	36.2
21	G	Blake Eddins	6-7/220	Jr.	3.9	1.6	0.5	40.0	68.0	38.7
	F	Demario Eddins	6-6/205	Fr.	Averaged 18 ppg, 11 rpg, 6 apq last year.					
23	G	Teddy Gipson*	6-4/170	Sr.	8.1	2.1	1.6	50.3	71.8	30.2
33	F	Dionisio Gomez	6-8/215	Sr.	3.7	3.2	0.8	44.2	50.0	—
22	F	Michael Jones	6-9/190	Fr.	Grew two inches in his redshirt year.					
	F	Berry Jordan	6-5/215	Fr.	Averaged 16.8 points and 6.1 blocks in HS.					
31	F	Alonzo Lane	6-7/250	Jr.	6.9	3.2	0.7	51.5	51.4	—
12	G	Jannero Pargo	6-2/165	Sr.	12.3	2.1	2.3	44.9	87.8	41.7
50	F	Larry Satchell*	6-9/220	Jr.	3.7	3.5	0.5	40.8	63.6	—
	G	J.J. Sullinger	6-5/195	Fr.	Co-player of the year in Ohio with 21.4 ppg.					
3	G	Charles Tatum	5-10/175	Jr.	5.7	0.8	0.4	39.2	95.2	31.2

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Joe Johnson*	6-9/225	14.2	6.4	2.6	46.8	74.7	44.3

Schedule

D20	UT Chattanooga	J19	Mississippi	F20	Alabama
N12	Maine*	D22	Oklahoma St.***	J23	at Georgia
N18	Oral Roberts	D29	Elon	J26	Florida
N28	at Tulsa	J2	at Memphis	J30	at Alabama
D1	Oklahoma	J5	at Auburn	F2	Auburn
D4	SW Texas State	J8	Mississippi State	F9	at Mississippi
D8	vs. Illinois**	J13	at LSU	F13	at Tennessee
D10	UNC Greensboro	J16	South Carolina	F16	LSU

second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 76.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Auburn, Ala.

Website: www.auburn.edu/athletics

Home court: Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum (10,500).

Tigers Data

Coach: Cliff Ellis (138-83, 7 years; 486-295 overall, 26 years; 6-7 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Shannon Weaver (4 years), Charlton Young (4), Mike Wilson (1).

2000-2001 record: 18-14. SEC West: 7-9/14th. Lost to Purdue in NIT

4. Auburn

National Rank: 76

FRONTCOURT: Sophomore center Kyle Davis had a school-record 84 blocked shots last season—including an NIT-record 13 against Miami—and will be a strong defensive force. He also showed marked improvement on offense by the end of the season and could develop into one of the SEC's better all-around big men. He will have help with the return of senior Mack McGadney, who missed most of last season with a knee injury but is expected to be back at full strength when the season opens. McGadney was the team's leading scorer and rebounder before he went down and should be a consistent scorer inside if he's healthy. Freshman Marco Killingsworth is a big-time talent and could win the starting job at power forward with Davis at center and McGadney at small forward. Sophomore Abdou Diame should get quality time.

BACKCOURT: Jamison Brewer's unexpected decision to declare for the NBA draft left a question at point guard. The Tigers hope the answer is junior Marquis Daniels, who led the team in scoring and rebounding last season while playing on the wing. Daniels, who played at the point in high school, missed Auburn's August tour of Spain because of a stress fracture in his right foot. But the injury didn't require surgery, and he is expected to be ready for the start of practice. Senior Lincoln Glass also figures to play at the point and could start there if Daniels' move doesn't work out. Junior Adam Harrington is the best perimeter shooter, but he must improve on last season's 34 percent 3-point shooting. Freshman Dwayne Mitchell might be ready to help off the bench.

STRATEGY: Auburn has talent and depth and should be able to play an uptempo style with a lot of pressing. If Daniels makes a smooth transition to point guard and McGadney returns strong off his knee injury, the Tigers could challenge for the West title.

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
14	G	Charlton Barker	5-11/167	Sr.	2.0	1.0	1.5	50.0	100.0	—
11	G	Derrick Bird	6-4/180	Jr.	Shooter whose defense will help the press.					
22	C	Marin Bota	7-0/235	So.	0.7	1.0	0.1	50.0	46.2	—
33	F	Donny Calton	6-6/194	Jr.	0.7	1.7	0.3	11.1	100.0	—
3	G	Marquis Daniels*	6-6/200	Jr.	15.7	7.0	1.6	52.2	64.5	22.9
34	C	Kyle Davis*	6-10/220	So.	4.8	5.9	0.3	51.8	45.0	0.0
2	F	Abdou Diame	6-9/210	So.	7.0	3.3	0.5	54.2	54.5	—
53	F	Orenn Fells	6-6/200	So.	1.3	1.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	—
40	G	Lincoln Glass	5-10/195	Sr.	7.2	1.6	2.3	34.0	89.1	31.9
21	G	Adam Harrington*	6-5/200	Jr.	15.5	4.3	2.4	41.0	71.3	34.1
4	F	Marco Killingsworth	6-8/240	Fr.	A powerful lefty who runs the floor well.					
30	G	Johnathan Lewis	6-2/170	Jr.	1.0	0.3	0.0	40.0	—	—
31	F	Mack McGadney	6-7/250	Sr.	15.0	8.3	0.5	46.2	70.4	25.0
23	G	Dwayne Mitchell	6-4/195	Fr.	Has competitive drive; 28 ppg last year.					
	G	Brandon Robinson	6-8/215	Fr.	17 ppg on 55% shooting at prep school.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jamison Brewer*	6-4/180	8.4	7.2	5.8	46.9	52.9	22.7
G	Scott Pohlman*	6-2/170	12.5	2.2	1.7	42.6	81.4	31.8

Schedule

D15	Marshall**	J19	at LSU	F20	at Florida
N16	TBA	D18	South Alabama	J22	Kentucky
N18	Jacksonville St.	D20	UNC Asheville	J27	at Tennessee
N24	at Rutgers	D29	Southern Miss.	J30	Mississippi State
N27	TBA	J5	Arkansas	F2	at Arkansas
N30	Fla. International	J9	at Mississippi	F9	Georgia
D4	Louisiana Tech	J12	Alabama	F13	Mississippi
D8	Virginia*	J16	at Vanderbilt	F16	at Mississippi St.

*at Birmingham, Ala.
**at Mobile, Ala.

5. Louisiana State

National Rank: 85

FRONTCOURT: Junior forward Ronald Dupree, the SEC's leading scorer (17.3 average) last season and second-leading rebounder (8.8), will have some help inside with the addition of junior college transfers Shawnson Johnson and Thomas Davis and the return of Brad Bridgewater from a knee injury. Dupree still will be the go-to player. But the Tigers won't have to rely on him as heavily, so he will be free to play more on the perimeter, where he can be effective driving and shooting a mid-range jumper. Johnson, 6-9, and Davis, 6-8, will improve the team's rebounding strength and defense around the basket. Davis also has good perimeter skills. Bridgewater, who missed all of last season, should be back at full strength when the season opens and will give LSU another big body inside. Senior Jason Wilson, a walk-on last season, is now on scholarship and figures into the rotation.

BACKCOURT: The Tigers are experienced with returning starters in point guard Torris Bright and perimeter players Collis Temple III and Jermaine Williams. Bright should be ready to bounce back from a somewhat disappointing sophomore season. He has lost weight and has bulked up in the right spots, and it won't hurt that he will be pushed at the point by talented freshman Xavier Whipple. Two other newcomers—freshman guard Antonio Hudson and sophomore JueMichael Young—should add some scoring punch off the bench and will keep the starters from wearing down.

STRATEGY: After being down to five healthy scholarship players last season, the Tigers can cut loose. They're up to 11 scholarship players and should be able to run more on offense, extend their defense and play more aggressively at both ends. Assuming they don't suffer a rash of injuries, the Tigers appear to have the talent and depth for a winning record and an NIT berth.

Tigers Data

Coach: John Brady (62-55, 4 years; 151-132 overall, 10 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Kermit Davis (4 years), Mike Giorlando (1st year), Butch Pierre (4).

2000-2001 record: 13-16. SEC West:

2-14/6th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 84.

Last league title: 2000 (SEC West).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Baton Rouge, La.

Website: www.lsusports.net

Home court: Pete Maravich Assembly Center (14,164).

Roster		*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter								
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
54	F	Brad Bridgewater	6-8/260	Jr.	Returning from knee ligament injury.					
3	G	Torris Bright*	6-4/195	Jr.	10.8	2.8	4.1	41.6	72.9	36.1
25	G	Ross Chouest	6-0/180	So.	Followed Cremins out of Georgia Tech.					
	F	Thomas Davis	6-8/225	Jr.	Led JC team with 15 ppg as well as 6 rpg.					
12	F	Ronald Dupree*	6-6/210	Jr.	17.3	8.8	1.4	48.5	69.9	32.8
00	G	Brian Green	6-4/185	Jr.	0.3	0.7	0.2	20.0	—	0.0
	G	Antonio Hudson	6-4/197	Fr.	Led 1A high school with 30.3-point average.					
	F	Shawnson Johnson	6-9/240	Jr.	Should be a go-to guy immediately.					
	G	Josh Maravich	6-3/170	Fr.	Faces the pressure of being Pete's son.					
41	G	Collis Temple III*	6-7/215	Jr.	14.1	4.6	2.2	45.1	73.3	36.3
10	G	Charlie Thompson	6-1/180	So.	1.4	0.6	1.0	44.8	72.7	46.2
22	G	Xavier Whipple	6-2/175	Fr.	True point guard has potential to be great.					
21	F	Jermaine Williams*	6-7/185	Sr.	7.4	3.9	1.9	49.7	69.4	29.4
44	F	Jason Wilson	6-8/250	Sr.	3.7	3.5	0.1	50.6	64.5	—
42	F	JueMichael Young	6-4/205	So.	Academics, suspension held him back.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Brian Beshara*	6-8/220	11.2	6.0	2.3	37.1	69.2	36.1
G	Lamont Roland	6-4/205	10.2	3.5	4.7	46.2	56.5	40.6

Schedule

N17	Campbell	D20	Houston	J26	at Mississippi St.	F23	Georgia
N19	Southern	D27	Miami (Fla.)*	J30	Tennessee	F27	Mississippi
N23-25	Hawaii-Hilo Tour.	D30	Nicholls State	F2	Alabama	M2	at Auburn
N28	Towson State	J5	at Alabama	F6	at Vanderbilt		*at New Orleans
D2	Northwestern St.	J13	Arkansas	F9	Kentucky		
D4	La.-Lafayette	J16	at Florida	F13	Mississippi State		
D15	McNeese State	J19	Auburn	F16	at Arkansas		

6. Mississippi State

National Rank: 103

FRONTCOURT: After Robert Jackson and Tyrus Boswell were dismissed from the team (they later transferred), Mario Austin stepped up his play to help the team reach the NIT quarterfinals last season. Now the sophomore is the unquestioned leader inside for the Bulldogs. Austin, the first McDonald's High School All-American to play for Mississippi State, gained consistency on offense last season and improved dramatically on defense. The Bulldogs need him to keep improving and become a marquee SEC player. JC transfer Michal Ignerski can bang inside and play on the perimeter. Of the two freshmen 7-foot centers, Marcus Campbell (7-1, 265) might help this season. Wesley Morgan (7-2, 230) is likely to need time to gain weight and strength before he can play effectively in the conference. Sophomore center Lincoln Smith redshirted last season and might help off the bench.

BACKCOURT: Junior Derrick Zimmerman played well down the stretch and will be the starting point guard. He always has been a good defensive player, and last season he finally started showing he could finish strong on offense. He needs to pick up his scoring to help make up for the loss of Antonio Jackson. Seniors Marckell Patterson and Michael Gholar are experienced perimeter players. But they need to be more consistent, especially Gholar, who made a comeback late last year from deep on the bench. Sophomore Timmy Bowers, a potentially good scorer, should get a chance to show what he can do with more playing time. Guy Gardner can provide solid minutes at point guard, and freshman Winsome Frazier could help off the bench as a swingman.

STRATEGY: The Bulldogs will look to Austin inside as their first option and hope he will help open the outside for the perimeter shooters. If Austin develops into a star, he could lead Mississippi State to a winning record and an NIT berth.

Bulldogs Data

Coach: Rick Stansbury (52-42, 3 years).

Assistant coaches: Robert Kirby (3 years), Phil Cunningham (1), Stan Jones (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 18-13. SEC West:

7-9/4th. Lost to Tulsa in NIT quarterfinals.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 58.

Last league title: 1996 (SEC West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Starkville, Miss.

Website: www.mstateathletics.com

Home court: Humphrey Coliseum (10,500).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
33	F/C	Mario Austin	6-9/255	So.	7.9	3.6	0.8	47.8	65.8	—
15	G	Timmy Bowers	6-2/185	So.	2.5	0.9	0.6	38.2	64.3	24.0
11	C	Marcus Campbell	7-1/265	Fr.	Could contribute this season.					
23	G/F	Winsome Frazier	6-4/180	Fr.	Top 100 prep, mostly thanks to his defense.					
14	G	Guy Gardner	6-2/175	Sr.	3.2	1.0	1.3	30.2	69.0	44.4
21	G/F	Michael Gholar	6-5/205	Sr.	2.9	3.7	0.9	29.1	43.8	20.4
10	G	Roy Goffer*	6-3/175	So.	2.9	0.9	1.1	35.5	76.5	35.3
44	F	Michal Ignerski	6-9/230	Jr.	Third team national JC selection last year.					
25	C	Wesley Morgan	7-2/230	Fr.	Produced 11 double-doubles last season.					
24	G/F	Marckell Patterson*	6-5/190	Sr.	12.2	4.4	2.0	46.2	79.6	37.2
34	C	Lincoln Smith	6-9/270	So.	Returning from redshirt sophomore season.					
22	G	Derrick Zimmerman	6-2/185	Jr.	4.6	2.7	2.9	46.1	57.1	16.7

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Tyrus Boswell	6-7/240						
F	Tang Hamilton*	6-7/220	12.1	6.8	1.3	49.8	69.1	36.4
G	Antonio Jackson*	6-4/185	12.8	3.2	3.2	39.4	75.3	32.4
F/C	Robert Jackson	6-8/255						
C	Quentin Smith*	6-9/250	3.2	3.4	0.2	46.0	41.2	—

Schedule

N17	Nicholls State	D15	TBA	J19	at Alabama	F20	at Vanderbilt
N19	Florida A&M	D17	La.-Monroe	J26	LSU	F23	Mississippi
N21	Ark.-Little Rock	D20-22	Las Vegas Cl.	J30	at Auburn	F27	Arkansas
N26	TBA	D29	at Tulane	F2	at Florida	M2	at South Carolina
N28	Alabama A&M	J5	Kentucky	F6	Georgia		
D1	South Alabama	J8	at Arkansas	F9	Alabama		
D5	at Richmond	J12	at Mississippi	F13	at LSU		

ATLANTIC COAST

BY HARRISON RAND

The ACC boasts two of the top teams in the country in Duke and Maryland, both of which will run away from the rest of the league as they battle for the regular-season crown. But each school still faces daunting questions.

Mike Krzyzewski certainly has the tools he needs to win another national title, but has Shane Battier taken some of the necessary intangibles with him to Memphis? At Maryland, Gary Williams finally reached the Final Four last season, but are Juan Dixon and Lonny Baxter good for another trip?

Regardless of the answers, this rivalry, which caused more than a few sparks last season (Duke won three of four), once again should be highly charged. The Terps will be looking to avenge a devastating loss to the Blue Devils in the Final Four, where Maryland blew a 22-point first-half lead.

Rob Daniels, Greensboro News & Record
Doug Dougherty, Roanoke Times

Predictions

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Duke* | 6. Georgia Tech |
| 2. Maryland* | 7. NC State |
| 3. Virginia* | 8. Clemson |
| 4. North Carolina* | 9. Florida State |
| 5. Wake Forest* | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jason Williams, Duke	6-2	196	Jr.
G	Juan Dixon, Maryland	6-3	164	Sr.
F	Mike Dunleavy, Duke	6-8	220	Jr.
F	Darius Songaila, Wake Forest	6-9	245	Sr.
F/C	Lonny Baxter, Maryland	6-8	260	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Chris Duhon, Duke	6-1	186	So.
G	Roger Mason Jr., Virginia	6-5	201	Jr.
F	Travis Watson, Virginia	6-8	254	Jr.
F	Jason Capel, North Carolina	6-8	224	Sr.
C	Carlos Boozer, Duke	6-9	270	Jr.

Player of the Year

Jason Williams, Duke

Newcomer of the Year

Julius Hodge, G, NC State

Honor Roll

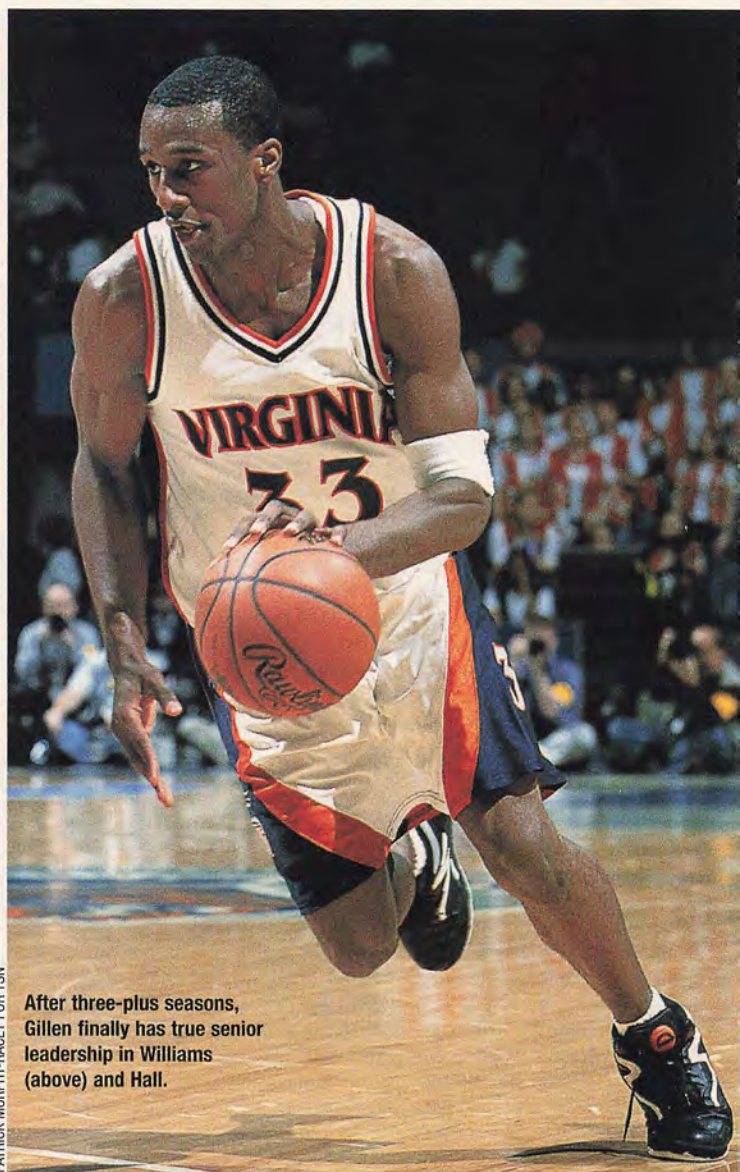
Best shooter: Jason Williams, Duke
Best rebounder: Travis Watson, Virginia
Best playmaker: Steve Blake, Maryland
Best defender: Juan Dixon, Maryland
Best dunker: Adam Hall, Virginia
Best under 6-0: Tony Akins, Georgia Tech
Best 6-11 or taller: Kris Lang, North Carolina
Most versatile: Mike Dunleavy, Duke
Most flamboyant: Jason Williams, Duke
Best NBA prospect: Jason Williams, Duke

The battle for third place will be interesting. North Carolina has finished in the ACC's top three for 37 straight seasons, but it appears Pete Gillen's Virginia squad has the power to change that. Also in the mix is Wake Forest, now under the direction of Skip Prosser, who will be installing a more uptempo attack into the talented, veteran team he inherited from Dave Odom. A young Georgia Tech team rounds out the best of the rest.

ASCENDING:

Virginia. The Cavaliers have posted back-to-back 9-7 seasons in the ACC, but they'll be better than that this time around. Roger Mason Jr. is one of the league's top players, and he'll have more freedom to show off his skills now that Donald Hand has left. Gillen also has true senior leaders in Chris Williams and Adam Hall for the first time in his Charlottesville tenure.

DESCENDING: North Carolina. The Tar Heels might finish out of the top three spots in the ACC for the first time in 38 years. North Carolina matched Duke with a 13-3 record in league play last season but lost leading scorer Joseph Forte (20.9 ppg) and shot blocker and rebounder Brendan Haywood. Coach Matt Doherty will need to lean heavily on three freshmen—Jawad Williams, Melvin Scott and Jackie Manuel—and that's not good news. But don't expect this trend to last; Doherty already has received commitments from



After three-plus seasons, Gillen finally has true senior leadership in Williams (above) and Hall.

top-10 recruits Rashad McCants and Raymond Felton for 2002-03.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Shane Battier, Duke. This year's Duke team will be more athletic than last season's national championship squad, but Battier's desire to win and the intangibles he presented will be impossible to replace. Mike Dunleavy, who knocked down some huge jumpers in last year's title game, and Chris Duhon must look to contribute more consistently on offense. Jason Williams will definitely be the go-to-guy down the stretch.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Josh Howard, Wake Forest. Howard led the

Demon Deacons in scoring (13.6 ppg) but garnered little national attention on a team that preached spreading the wealth. The Deacons will go as far as Howard and Darius Songaila can carry them. Howard's numbers will improve under the new regime and with Robert O'Kelley out of the mix. Howard can knock down the outside jumper and create opportunities off the dribble. He's also a terrific perimeter defender.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER:

Carlos Boozer, Duke. He will put up solid numbers again because his teammates make his job so easy. Duke spreads the floor as well as any team in the country, giving Boozer plenty of room to work in the paint. The defense also must think twice about doubling down on him because of Duke's deadly 3-point shooting. Boozer had a great summer with the U.S. squad in Japan, but he has yet to prove he can score consistently against other centers with comparable skills. With Brendan Haywood and Alvin Jones in the NBA, Boozer should own the paint in ACC play; however, expect most of his points to come off opportunities created by Williams' penetration rather than one-on-one play in the post.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT:

NC State coach Herb Sendek will be in trouble if the Wolfpack fails to make the NCAA Tournament this season. State hasn't been to the NAAs since 1991, and a 13-16 record last season, Sendek's fifth in Raleigh, doesn't leave much room for error. The Wolfpack will rely heavily on its incoming freshmen, led by Julius Hodge, especially after the exit of Damien Wilkins. Sendek probably isn't sleeping well knowing he's counting on freshmen to save his job.

BEST BETS:

Jason Williams will be the best player in the country. ... North Carolina students will be begging Ronald Curry and Julius Peppers to give basketball another shot once football wraps up. ... Maryland will realize how much "under-achiever" Terence Morris actually meant to last year's team. ... NC State will start looking for a new coach by midseason, but the Wolfpack still won't miss Wilkins. ... Dahntay Jones will make everyone at Duke forget about Nate James, if they haven't already. ... Wake's Prosser will teach Songaila how to stay out of foul trouble. ... Jawad Williams will become the second freshman to lead North Carolina in scoring in school history. Prior to Forte two years ago, that had never happened. ... Virginia's Gillen will win coach of the year honors in the ACC.

TSN

E-mail associate editor Harrison Rand at hrand@sportingnews.com.

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. **North Carolina:** Melvin Scott, Jackie Manuel, Jawad Williams rank among TSN's top 31 prospects.
2. **NC State:** Herb Sendek's job savers: Julius Hodge, a star-in-waiting, plus Levi Watkins and Josh Powell.
3. **Georgia Tech:** Four top 100 players: Ed Nelson, Barry Elder, Isma'il Muhammad, Anthony McHenry.
4. **Virginia:** Powerful Elton Brown is the top recruit; Jason Clark should help up front immediately.
5. **Duke:** Transfer Dahntay Jones should start and star; Daniel Ewing is latest McDonald's All-American.
6. **Clemson:** Class lacks marquee names but is deep. Could be foundation for Larry Shyatt to rebuild.
7. **Florida State:** Lands a big one in McDonald's All-American Anthony Richardson.
8. **Wake Forest:** Coaching switch hurts short term. Jamal Levy and transfer Steve Lepore could help.
9. **Maryland:** PG Andre Collins and JC transfer Ryan Randle could be rotation players. —Kyle Veltrop

RETURNING LEADERS

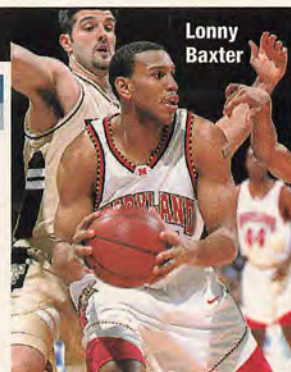
Name	School	PPG
Jason Williams	Duke	21.6
Juan Dixon	Maryland	18.2
Roger Mason Jr.	Virginia	15.7
Lonny Baxter	Maryland	15.6
Anthony Grundy	NC State	14.6
Name	School	RPG
Travis Watson	Virginia	9.1
Lonny Baxter	Maryland	7.9
Jason Capel	North Carolina	7.3
Chris Williams	Virginia	6.7
Carlos Boozer	Duke	6.5

Name	School	APG
Steve Blake	Maryland	6.9
Jason Williams	Duke	6.1
Chris Duhon	Duke	4.5
Tony Akins	Georgia Tech	4.3
Ronald Curry	North Carolina	4.3
Name	School	FG%
Carlos Boozer	Duke	60.4
Lonny Baxter	Maryland	56.6
Chris Williams	Virginia	50.3
Travis Watson	Virginia	49.7
Juan Dixon	Maryland	48.3

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Duke*	13	3	35	4	13	2	22	2
North Carolina*	13	3	26	7	12	2	14	5
Maryland*	10	6	25	11	11	3	14	8
Virginia*	9	7	20	9	14	1	6	8
Georgia Tech*	8	8	17	13	11	3	6	10
Wake Forest*	8	8	19	11	13	3	6	8
NC State	5	11	13	16	12	6	1	10
Florida State	4	12	9	21	6	11	3	10
Clemson	2	14	12	19	9	7	3	12

*Received NCAA bid.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

TEAM STATS

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Duke	39	48.1	69.6	38.5	38.6	18.0	10.5	5.0	13.6	90.7
Maryland	36	48.4	69.6	38.0	41.1	19.2	8.9	5.9	14.5	85.2
Virginia	29	45.5	73.6	36.9	39.0	14.5	7.6	3.4	13.8	85.0
North Carolina	33	47.9	67.0	36.4	41.3	17.4	7.4	5.6	15.6	79.1
Wake Forest	30	46.2	72.7	35.8	36.8	15.5	7.3	4.5	12.5	76.5
Georgia Tech	30	42.6	69.0	37.1	37.5	16.3	7.9	4.5	15.8	75.6
Clemson	31	42.4	70.2	35.8	38.2	14.0	6.0	2.2	16.0	74.1
NC State	29	43.9	67.3	36.2	37.9	12.8	8.1	4.1	16.7	73.8
Florida State	30	42.7	67.1	31.9	36.6	13.0	6.2	3.4	14.7	69.5

Opponents' stats

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Wake Forest	30	40.9	67.2	31.2	35.8	12.1	5.8	3.6	15.4	66.5
Duke	39	41.6	69.5	34.4	37.5	13.3	7.2	3.0	19.3	70.5
North Carolina	33	39.1	65.7	32.4	37.2	14.0	9.0	3.3	13.5	70.9
NC State	29	44.0	66.4	36.2	35.3	13.3	7.0	3.4	16.1	72.3
Maryland	36	40.4	70.8	34.3	36.1	12.3	7.3	4.0	16.6	72.4
Georgia Tech	30	40.7	68.5	31.7	40.0	14.5	6.7	3.6	16.1	72.9
Virginia	29	46.5	68.2	34.8	33.4	14.7	5.4	4.2	17.2	74.8
Florida State	30	45.3	69.6	39.6	35.4	14.1	7.5	4.4	12.9	76.3
Clemson	31	43.9	66.3	34.8	38.9	16.5	7.7	3.7	14.5	79.7

1. Duke

National Rank: 2

Schedule

N19	Maui Invitational
N25	Portland
N27	Iowa*
D2	Clemson
D5	Temple
D8	at Michigan
D16	North Carolina A&T
D18	Kentucky**
D29	San Diego State
J2	at Davidson
J6	at Florida State
J10	Georgia Tech
J13	at NC State
J17	Maryland
J19	Wake Forest
J24	at Boston College
J27	Virginia
J31	at North Carolina
F3	at Clemson
F7	Florida State
F9	at Georgia Tech
F14	NC State
F17	at Maryland
F21	at Wake Forest
F24	St. John's
F28	at Virginia
M3	North Carolina
*at Chicago	
**at East Rutherford, N.J.	

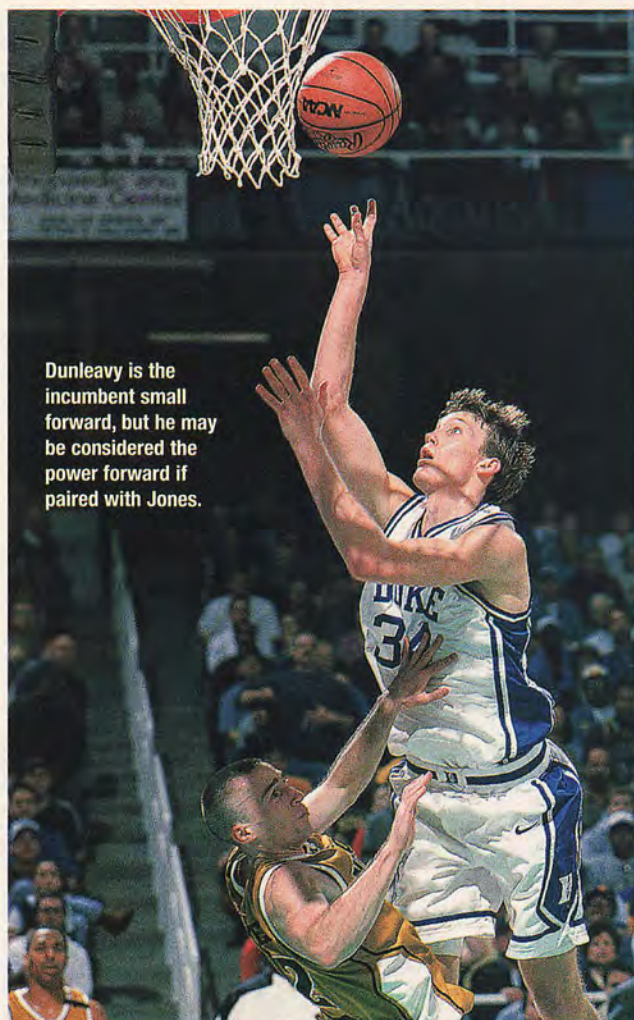
FRONT COURT: Suddenly, a five-man rotation has emerged for the Blue Devils, and one of the questions will be what to do with Casey Sanders. The high school All-American was a pleasant surprise as a March fill-in for the injured Carlos Boozer until Boozer's return, and the issue may be whether to play the two big men together or use Sanders as the backup at center. Nick Horvath, who missed all but six games last season with an injury, is definitely coming off the bench. Mike Dunleavy is the incumbent small forward, and he'll be paired with Rutgers transfer Dahntay Jones if coach Mike Krzyzewski elects to use Sanders off the bench. Otherwise, Jones is unlikely to unseat Dunleavy. Translation: Krzyzewski has several intriguing options.

BACK COURT: What on earth does Jason Williams think he's doing? Staying in school when he could be the No. 1 pick of the NBA draft? Williams' return, uncommon in this take-the-money-and-run era, gives Duke the most explosive guard in the country. He's so fast that he turns the ball over frequently, but he'll look to cut down on that in this, his third

and final year. (He intends to graduate in the spring.) Chris Duhon figures to be his running mate, and Daniel Ewing, the program's only signee in 2001-02, will be the first—and perhaps only—guard off the bench. Ewing and Duhon are probably going to be combination guards, giving Krzyzewski some nice options here.

STRATEGY: When Boozer went down late last season, experts declared Duke dead. Krzyzewski compensated with a seemingly helter-skelter, position-free offense that ran opponents ragged when they played man-to-man and killed them with 3-pointers when they elected to go zone. Boozer's health figures to give the Blue Devils a more conventional setup, but this team still will be happy to run. Sanders' solid play last March means the Devils can feel confident if injury befalls the frontcourt. When Duke plays halfcourt ball and Boozer posts up, the quick kick-out to Dunleavy or Williams on the perimeter will be an important part of the offense.

KEY TO THE SEASON: Jones doesn't have to be Shane Battier, but if he can approximate the ex-Devil, Duke will have few worries. That's the biggest hole for the defending NCAA champions, but the replacement of one man is nothing these days. Just ask Arizona, the



Dunleavy is the incumbent small forward, but he may be considered the power forward if paired with Jones.

other national finalist, which lost three starters to early NBA defection. It would be nice if the Blue Devils could stay healthy (Williams broke his left hand in August and was expected to be out a month), but last year's run proves even the seemingly indispensable Boozer could be lost for a time. Expect Williams to play 35 minutes in every important game and earn his share of Player of the Year honors. It will be hard to pick against this team, but Maryland will be a worthy opponent in conference play. Duke is after something unprecedented in ACC history—a fourth straight tournament title. —Rob Daniels

Blue Devils Data

Coach: Mike Krzyzewski (533-164, 21 years; 606-223 overall, 26 years; 56-14 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA titles in 1991, '92 and 2001).

Assistant coaches: Johnny Dawkins (3 years), Steve Wojciechowski (2), Chris Collins (1).

2000-2001 record: 35-4. ACC: 13-3/T1st. Beat Arizona in NCAA final.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 1.

Last league title: 2001 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.

Site: Durham, N.C.

Website: www.goduke.com

Home court: Cameron Indoor Stadium (9,314).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
4	C	Carlos Boozer*	Juneau, Alaska	6-9/270	Jr.	13.3	6.5	1.2	60.4	71.9	—
40	G	Andy Borman	Morrisville, N.C.	6-1/181	Jr.	0.9	0.3	0.1	40.0	100.0	33.3
15	G	Andre Buckner	Hopkinsville, Ky.	5-10/170	Jr.	0.2	0.4	0.3	16.7	25.0	0.0
	F	Mark Causey	Gainesville, Ga.	6-3/175	Fr.	Walk-on was Georgia's top 2A player last year.					
41	F	Matt Christensen	Belmont, Mass.	6-10/247	Sr.	1.6	2.3	0.1	58.6	43.8	—
21	G	Chris Duhon*	Slidell, La.	6-1/186	So.	7.2	3.2	4.5	42.4	65.0	36.1
34	F	Mike Dunleavy*	Lake Oswego, Ore.	6-8/220	Jr.	12.6	5.7	2.6	47.4	69.4	37.3
5	G	Daniel Ewing	Houston	6-4/180	Fr.	Led Texas high school team to two state titles.					
3	F	Nick Horvath	Shoreview, Minn.	6-10/230	So.	2.8	2.3	0.5	30.4	100.0	16.7
30	G/F	Dahntay Jones	Trenton, N.J.	6-5/206	Jr.	Made Big East All-Rookie Team in 1998-99.					
42	G/F	Reggie Love	Charlotte, N.C.	6-4/225	So.	1.3	1.6	0.1	52.9	58.8	0.0
20	C	Casey Sanders	Tampa, Fla.	6-11/230	Jr.	2.5	1.8	0.2	46.7	51.7	—
22	G	Jason Williams*	Plainfield, N.J.	6-2/196	Jr.	21.6	3.3	6.1	47.3	65.9	42.7

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Shane Battier*	Birmingham, Mich.	6-8/220	19.9	7.3	1.9	47.1	79.6	41.9
G/F	Nate James	Washington, D.C.	6-6/200	12.3	5.2	1.1	49.4	79.9	31.4

2. Maryland

National Rank: 3

Schedule

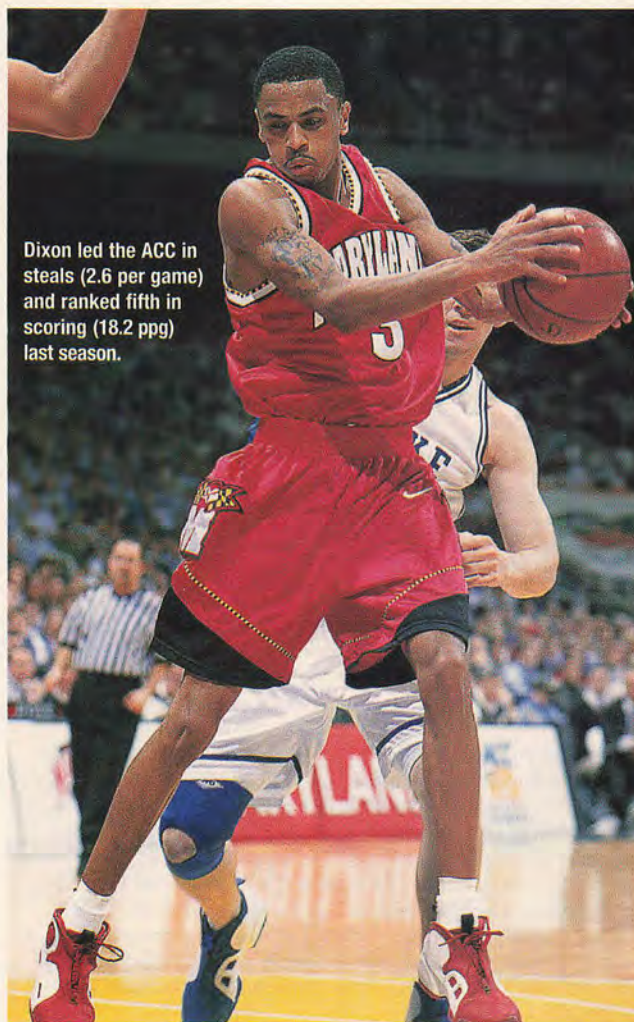
N8	Coaches v. Cancer Cl.
N17	American
N24	Delaware State
N27	Illinois
D2-3	BB&T Classic
D9	Detroit
D11	Monmouth
D21	at Oklahoma
D27	William & Mary
D30	at NC State
J3	Norfolk State
J9	North Carolina
J13	at Georgia Tech
J17	at Duke
J20	Clemson
J23	at Wake Forest
J26	Florida State
J31	at Virginia
F3	NC State
F10	at North Carolina
F13	Georgia Tech
F17	Duke
F20	at Clemson
F24	Wake Forest
F27	at Florida State
M3	Virginia

FRONTCOURT: At some point before the 2000-2001 season, the frontcourt focus shifted from Terence Morris to Lonny Baxter. As a result, when Morris completed his eligibility, there was sorrow but little sense of doom. Tahj Holden, 6-10, 247, has a bigger body than Morris and the shooting range to match. If it's rebounding and more of an inside presence the Terrapins want, Chris Wilcox fits that bill. In fact, Wilcox probably runs better than Holden. Using Holden and Wilcox together with Baxter would present serious matchup problems for opponents, but look for coach Gary Williams to go with a more conventional starting lineup, one including athletic senior Byron Mouton. He needed only four games last season to take the starting job from veteran Danny Miller, who has since transferred to Notre Dame. The Terrapins recruited Ryan Randle from junior college with the intention of playing him immediately, but nobody is going to take much time from Baxter, a two-time All-ACC pick.

BACKCOURT: It's rare in basketball nowadays that a pair of players like Baxter and

guard Juan Dixon would spend four years in college, so the Terps should count their blessings. Dixon has a similar background to Baxter in that he arrived at Maryland as an unheralded player but quickly surpassed more celebrated teammates and rivals. He has a chance to become the first Maryland player since John Lucas in the mid-1970s to make first-team All-ACC in three consecutive seasons. He made the ACC All-Defensive team last year after leading the league in steals. Backcourt partner Steve Blake, who led the ACC in assists, is so comfortable in his role that he doesn't look for his shot. He may be too comfortable. Dixon and Blake are backed up by another veteran, Drew Nicholas, who had 65 3-point field goals in his first two years and 136 assists. Many starters would be happy with those numbers.

STRATEGY: Even with wide-bodies Baxter and Holden, Maryland won't hesitate to run. Baxter has gained considerable muscle tone since his first year and does much of his scoring by starting the break, then beating his man down the floor. Williams' system works best when he has confidence in nine to 10 players, but Miller's departure leaves the Terrapins a little shy on depth. Randle or one of the other recruits probably will have to contribute.



Dixon led the ACC in steals (2.6 per game) and ranked fifth in scoring (18.2 ppg) last season.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

KEY TO THE SEASON: Maryland showed that it could get past the regional semifinals. Now, if the Terrapins want the ultimate prize, they must show they can beat Duke. Maryland beat the Blue Devils once last year. That win came in Durham, N.C., where it was least expected. There probably was more reason to believe Maryland would win one of the other three games, all of which it lost after holding double-figure leads. Rightly or wrongly, Morris had a reputation for disappearing in big games. This year's Terps will go as far as Baxter and Dixon can take them. —Doug Dougherty

Terrapins Data

Coach: Gary Williams (242-139, 12 years; 449-267 overall, 23 years; 17-11 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Dave Dickerson (5 years), Jimmy Patsos (10), Matt Kovarik (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 25-11. ACC: 10-6/3rd. Lost to Duke in NCAA national semifinal.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 5.

Last league title: 1995 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.

Site: College Park, Md.

Website: www.umterps.com

Home court: Cole Field House (14,500).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	G	Earl Badu	Baltimore	6-0/160	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	—	—
35	F/C	Lonny Baxter*	Silver Spring, Md.	6-8/260	Sr.	15.6	7.9	0.5	56.6	59.2	50.0
25	G	Steve Blake*	Miami Lakes, Fla.	6-3/160	Jr.	6.9	3.0	6.9	39.9	71.4	39.4
10	G	Andre Collins	Crisfield, Md.	5-9/180	Fr.	Could get a few minutes at backup point guard.					
3	G	Juan Dixon*	Baltimore	6-3/164	Sr.	18.2	4.3	2.6	48.3	86.5	41.1
21	F	Michael Grinnon	Oyster Bay, N.Y.	6-6/195	Fr.	Considered a good shooter and a heady defender.					
45	F	Tahj Holden	Red Bank, N.J.	6-10/247	Jr.	4.5	2.3	0.6	49.4	60.8	48.0
5	G	Calvin McCall	Miami	6-3/200	Jr.	1.2	0.6	0.7	30.8	60.0	28.6
1	G/F	Byron Mouton*	Rayne, La.	6-6/215	Sr.	9.6	4.0	1.2	50.8	77.9	40.5
12	G	Drew Nicholas	Hempstead, N.Y.	6-3/160	Jr.	6.6	1.6	2.4	49.4	70.2	42.0
33	F/C	Ryan Randle	Duncanville, Texas	6-9/245	Jr.	Should work his way into Terps' frontcourt mix.					
40	C	Matt Slaninka	Hyattsville, Md.	7-4/257	Fr.	Another product of powerhouse DeMatha HS.					
54	F/C	Chris Wilcox	Raleigh, N.C.	6-10/220	So.	3.6	2.1	0.5	58.0	60.6	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Mike Mardesich	Boston	7-0/244	3.6	2.6	0.4	47.3	53.3	—
F	Danny Miller	Mount Holly, N.J.	6-8/220	Transferred to Notre Dame.					
F	Terence Morris*	Frederick, Md.	6-9/221	12.2	7.7	1.9	43.2	79.5	28.9

3. Virginia

National Rank: 11

Schedule

N16 Wagner
N18 East Tennessee St.
N21 Howard
N28 Michigan State*
D1 Virginia Tech
D8 Auburn**
D17 Char. Southern
D20 at Georgetown
D23 Rutgers
D30 Grambling State
J5 NC State
J8 at Clemson
J12 at North Carolina
J15 Wake Forest
J19 Florida State
J22 at Georgia Tech
J24 VMI
J27 at Duke
J31 Maryland
F3 at Missouri
F6 at NC State
F10 Clemson
F12 North Carolina
F17 at Wake Forest
F20 at Florida State
F23 Georgia Tech
F28 Duke
M3 at Maryland
*at Richmond, Va.
**at Birmingham, Ala.

FRONT COURT: Coach Pete Gillen makes no secret that two-year starting center Travis Watson, listed at 6-8, is really just 6-7. Chris Williams, a power forward for most of his Virginia career, is a more natural shooting guard. Small forward Adam Hall would be a big guard in many systems. Nevertheless, the Cavaliers went from last in the ACC in rebounding in 1999-2000 to first last year. There is help on the way in the form of signees Elton Brown and Jason Clark, but it may be difficult to find playing time with all the experience that returns, including 6-8 J.C. Mathis, who played in all 29 games and was on the floor in the final minute of the NCAA Tournament loss to Gonzaga. Mathis' fundamentals and work ethic will ensure playing time. Freshman Maurice Young may have to wait his turn until seniors Williams and Hall exhaust their eligibility.

BACK COURT: Roger Mason Jr., the Cavaliers' sixth man as a freshman, averaged more than 18 points over the last 11 games and finished the season with a career-high 30 points against Gonzaga. Clearly, he was

Virginia's best player by the end of the year. This year, Mason will team with the player who helped recruit him, Majestic Mapp. Mapp, who missed all of last season because of reconstructive knee surgery, has the task of replacing four-year starter Donald Hand at point guard. Where Hand was a penetrator, Mapp is more of a distributor. He has 3-point range, but the team will miss Hand and Keith Friel, who combined for 99 3-pointers last year. Gillen is hopeful that Mason can fill some of the void after a breakout sophomore year in which he made 42 of 95 3-pointers and led the ACC in free-throw percentage at 88.4, a school record. Mason served as Hand's principal backup last year.

STRATEGY: Virginia's 85 points per game last season placed the Cavaliers fourth nationally among Division I teams, behind Texas Christian, Duke and Maryland. Gillen favors a pressing, frenetic style, but there's a tradeoff. Virginia finished last in the ACC in field-goal percentage defense, as opponents shot 50 percent or better from the field in 10 games. Gillen has the kind of athletes that thrive in an uptempo game, and as the Cavaliers' overall talent has improved, they have been at less of a disadvantage against teams eager to force them into a halfcourt game.

Cavaliers Data

Coach: Pete Gillen (53-37, 3 years; 327-165 overall, 16 years; 8-9 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Tom Herrieron (3 years), Walt Fuller (3), Scott Shepherd (2).

2000-2001 record: 20-9. ACC: 9-7/4th. Lost to Gonzaga in NCAA South first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 19.

Last league title: 1995 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Charlottesville, Va.

Website: www.virginiaspports.com

Home court: University Hall (8,392).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
42	F	Elton Brown	Newport News, Va.	6-8/250	Fr.	Averaged 26 ppg and 13 rpg in high school career.					
34	F	Jason Clark	Virginia Beach, Va.	6-8/225	Fr.	Playing time could be limited this season.					
5	G	Jason Dowling	New York	6-3/201	Sr.	0.6	0.2	0.1	40.0	25.0	25.0
31	G/F	Adam Hall*	Katy, Texas	6-5/200	Sr.	10.1	5.5	1.2	50.6	64.2	26.9
24	G	Jermaine Harper	Gardena, Calif.	6-3/170	Fr.	Scored 23 points vs. Oak Hill Academy last season.					
10	G	Keith Jenifer	Baltimore	6-3/165	Fr.	Played on same academy team as Clark last year.					
11	G	Majestic Mapp	Harlem, N.Y.	6-2/183	So.	Played in every game as a freshman in 1999-2000.					
21	G	Roger Mason Jr.*	Silver Spring, Md.	6-5/201	Jr.	15.7	3.7	2.5	47.6	88.4	44.2
32	F	J.C. Mathis	New York	6-8/231	So.	3.4	2.1	0.4	42.2	50.0	100.0
30	F/C	Jason Rogers	Staunton, Va.	6-10/225	Jr.	1.9	0.9	0.0	42.9	59.1	—
35	F/C	Travis Watson*	Brookneal, Va.	6-8/254	Jr.	12.3	9.1	0.9	49.7	61.7	—
33	F	Chris Williams*	Birmingham, Ala.	6-7/206	Sr.	14.5	6.7	2.0	50.3	76.0	39.5
23	G/F	Maurice Young	Mitchellville, Md.	6-4/200	So.	2.6	1.3	0.2	44.4	61.5	15.4

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Stephane Donon	Toulhouse, France	6-9/236	4.6	3.2	0.5	40.0	74.5	33.3
G	Keith Friel	Durham, N.H.	6-4/195	8.4	1.0	0.6	39.9	90.3	42.8
G	Donald Hand*	Paterson, N.J.	5-11/193	12.6	3.2	6.0	36.6	81.3	28.2



Mason (left) needs to hit more 3s to fill the void of Friel and Hand.

PATRICK MURPHY-RACEY FOR TSN

KEY TO THE SEASON: The Cavaliers were among a handful of Division I teams last year with five double-figure scorers. Four of them are back this year. The job of keeping everybody involved falls to Mapp, who has the mentality for the position but was not responding to knee surgery as quickly as hoped. Virginia has shown consistent progress under Gillen and last year won 20 games and made the NCAA Tournament for the first time in his three-year tenure. But the Cavaliers haven't won a postseason game of any sort since 1995, losing their last six games in the ACC Tournament, their last three in the NCAA Tournament and an NIT game. No number of regular-season wins will matter if the Cavs can't advance past the first round of the NCAAs. —D.D.

4. North Carolina

National Rank: 21

Schedule

N16 Hampton
N20 Davidson
N28 Indiana
D2 Georgia Tech
D8 at Kentucky
D16 Binghamton
D21-22 Tourn. of Champ.
D27 North Carolina A&T
D30 Texas A&M
J5 Wake Forest
J9 at Maryland
J12 Virginia
J16 at Florida State
J19 Connecticut
J23 NC State
J27 at Clemson
J31 Duke
F2 at Georgia Tech
F6 at Wake Forest
F10 Maryland
F12 at Virginia
F17 Florida State
F20 Ohio
F24 at NC State
F27 Clemson
M3 at Duke

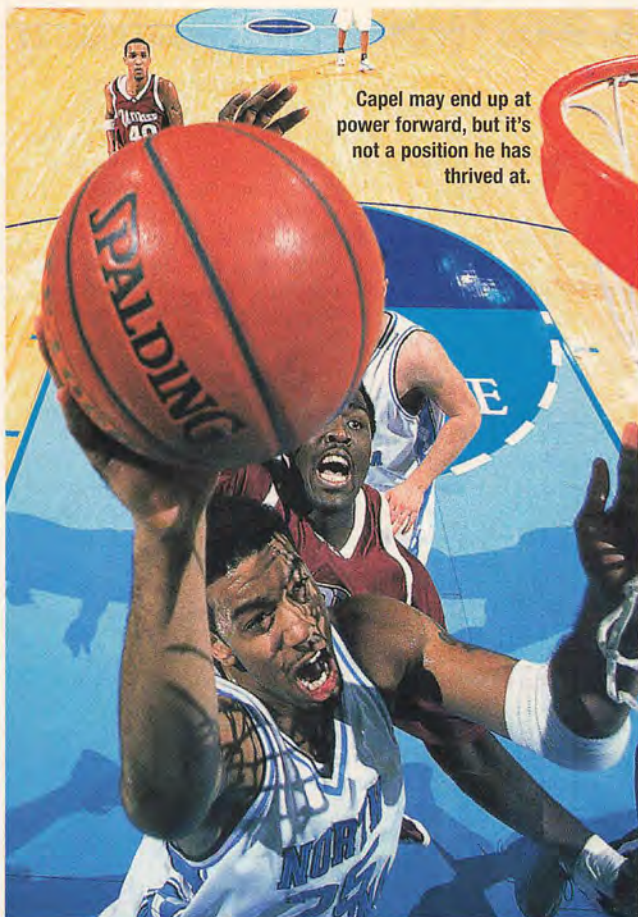
FRONTCOURT: Kris Lang has been a power forward for three years. Now he's going to have to play in the middle. There is no other way around it. When several big-time big men in the country went pro out of high school and the Tar Heels declined to sign a body just to occupy a spot, the center position fell to Lang. The senior, slowed by injuries as a sophomore, hasn't fully reclaimed the form he demonstrated in his rookie campaign. He averaged 11.3 points last year; he'll have to take that to 16 or 17 for the Heels to meet the expectations that follow them regardless of personnel. Senior forward Jason Capel is the other returnee. What to do with the other spot is the key question here. Senior Brian Bersticker, whose career also has been disrupted by injury, is expected to start. If he doesn't, Capel essentially will be a power forward, a spot at which he has struggled in his rare moments there. If Capel ends up making that move, freshman Jawad Williams could end up starting on the wing.

BACKCOURT: There are plenty of candidates at point guard, but no front-runner,

and that's the Tar Heels' biggest concern. Ronald Curry, who took the job almost by default last season, may bypass basketball to concentrate on the NFL draft if he has a solid senior season as North Carolina's quarterback. Last year as rookies, Adam Boone was tentative and Brian Morrison was often out of control, so neither is a lock. That means freshman Melvin Scott, who is considered, like Williams, a top-30 prospect, could be running this team—and early. Morrison is better suited to the off-guard spot. Another issue is what to do with yet another freshman, Jackie Manuel, a 6-6 swingman. Three rookies starting for the Tar Heels? It could happen.

STRATEGY: Coach Matt Doherty wasted no time in expressing his preference for agile, versatile players who can run. Therefore, don't expect much plodding, wait-for-the-big-guy stuff. There is no real big man to wait for, anyway. Doherty would love to return to the run-and-jump style that marked the Dean Smith era, and if his freshmen can grasp it, he'll implement plenty of pressure. Last year's team couldn't really do that.

KEY TO THE SEASON: People in Chapel Hill don't like to



Capel may end up at power forward, but it's not a position he has thrived at.

admit this, but this team's fate rests with its freshmen. There simply aren't enough proven, talented players on the roster, and the probable football-related departures of Curry and Julius Peppers will only accelerate the role of the rookies. Scott will be under pressure to win the starting job at the point because there are no other sure-fire candidates. Williams will get the call somewhere because scoring punch from the wing is an issue as well. Still, it's hard to proclaim doom at UNC. The Tar Heels have been through similar times before and have emerged without incident. Extending the streak of top-three ACC finishes to 38 seasons is not out of the question, but neither is it certain. A return to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament should be the goal. The Heels have fallen short of that mark twice in the past three years. —R.D.

Tar Heels Data

Coach: Matt Doherty (26-7, 1 year; 48-23 overall, 2 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Bob MacKinnon (1 year), Fred Quartlebaum (1), Doug Wojcik (1).

2000-2001 record: 26-7. ACC: 13-3/1st. Lost to Penn State in NCAA South second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 5.

Last league title: 2001 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1974.

Site: Chapel Hill, N.C.

Website: www.tarheelblue.com

Home court: Smith Center (21,750).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
50	F/C	Brian Bersticker	Virginia Beach, Va.	6-10/232	Sr.	1.5	1.0	0.2	38.2	50.0	00.0
31	G	Adam Boone	Minneapolis, Minn.	6-2/182	So.	1.5	0.9	1.4	30.0	75.0	32.3
25	F	Jason Capel*	Fayetteville, N.C.	6-8/224	Sr.	11.4	7.3	3.4	47.0	78.5	41.8
22	G	Ronald Curry*	Hampton, Va.	6-2/200	Jr.	5.5	3.4	4.3	43.1	57.4	35.1
13	C	Neil Fingleton	Durham, England	7-6/295	Fr	He could solve a lot of problems—if he can play.					
	G	Jonathan Holmes	Bloomington, Ind.	6-0/175	Jr.	1.6	0.8	0.8	50.0	92.3	50.0
44	F	Will Johnson	Hickory, N.C.	6-8/211	Jr.	1.5	1.2	0.4	45.0	72.2	28.6
42	F/C	Kris Lang*	Gastonia, N.C.	6-11/243	Sr.	11.3	5.7	0.7	55.0	52.0	—
	F/G	Jackie Manuel	W. Palm Beach, Fl.	6-6/185	Fr.	Another newcomer who is expected to contribute.					
32	F	Orlando Melendez	Juana Diaz, PR	6-8/200	Sr.	0.8	0.8	0.2	50.0	100.0	50.0
3	G	Brian Morrison	Redmond, Wash.	6-2/175	So.	3.0	1.1	1.2	33.0	62.9	37.8
	G	Melvin Scott	Baltimore, Md.	6-2/175	Fr.	May have to run this team right away.					
	F	Jawad Williams	Lakewood, Ohio	6-9/205	Fr.	Could lead the Heels in scoring as a freshman.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Joseph Forte*	Greenbelt, Md.	6-4/185	20.9	6.1	3.5	45.0	85.3	37.7
C	Brendan Haywood*	Greensboro, N.C.	7-0/264	12.3	7.3	1.3	59.2	51.6	—
G/F	Max Owens	Macon, Ga.	6-5/198	5.7	1.4	0.9	40.7	83.8	30.4
F	Julius Peppers	Bailey, N.C.	6-7/270	7.1	4.0	0.8	64.3	67.1	0.0

5. Wake Forest

National Rank: 29

FRONTCOURT: The Deacons will center much of their offense on two solid returnees: center Darius Songaila and forward Josh Howard. Songaila has made strides in avoiding foul trouble but must continue the progression this year without enforcers Rafael Vidaurrreta and Josh Shoemaker around. Howard, one of the ACC's best athletes, could be ready for a breakout year. The key question is what to do about the power forward spot, where freshmen Jamal Levy and Vytas Danelius, a pair of top-70 prospects, will battle for a job along with senior Antwan Scott. The obvious weakness here is rebounding. The Deacons weren't great in that area last year and will need to get a group effort this season.

BACKCOURT: Two seniors whose playing time and roles have been in flux will get consistent minutes under new coach Skip Prosser. Point man Broderick Hicks, one of the ACC's most improved players last year, will be joined by Craig Dawson, one of the league's best providers of instant offense the past three seasons. Hicks is ready and willing to run Prosser's uptempo offense. Backup help is a question. A.W. Hamilton, who played sparingly as a freshman, is the most likely candidate. Northwestern transfer Steve Lepore, an invitee to the U.S. junior national team trials this past summer, is a solid 3-point threat.

STRATEGY: Prosser does not hide it: He wants his team to run and trap all over the place, which is somewhat rare these days. The players, of course, love it because it tends to create scoring opportunities. Howard should thrive in the system, but the key will be Hicks and the development of a solid backup point guard. The Deacons will find themselves battling with Virginia and North Carolina for the third and fourth spots in the ACC. A second straight NCAA Tournament bid is likely. —R.D.

Demon Deacons Data

Coach: Skip Prosser (1st year; 165-78 overall, 8 years; 1-5 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Jeff Battle (1st year), Dino Gaudio (1st year), Chris Mack (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 19-11. ACC: 8-8/T5th. Lost to Butler in NCAA

Midwest first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 28.

Last league title: 1996.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Winston-Salem, N.C.

Website: www.wakeforestsports.com

Home court: Lawrence Joel Coliseum (14,407).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
13	F	Vytas Danelius	6-8/210	Fr.						
42	G	Craig Dawson	6-5/205	Sr.	12.5	2.2	2.0	45.4	66.7	37.9
4	G	Taron Downey	6-2/175	Fr.						
11	G	A.W. Hamilton	6-3/176	So.	1.7	0.4	0.8	35.5	66.7	26.7
3	G	Broderick Hicks*	6-1/171	Sr.	6.9	1.9	2.6	40.5	77.1	37.8
5	F	Josh Howard*	6-6/191	Jr.	13.6	5.9	1.8	49.0	68.5	39.1
33	G	Steve Lepore	6-5/199	Jr.						
10	F	Jamal Levy	6-9/195	Fr.						
31	G	Ervin Murray	6-5/189	Sr.	2.2	2.8	2.9	42.6	77.8	23.1
53	C	Dshamal Schoetz	7-0/261	Fr.						
34	F	Antwan Scott	6-8/197	Sr.	6.8	3.6	0.4	48.7	73.1	25.0
25	F	Darius Songaila*	6-9/245	Sr.	13.2	6.0	1.7	50.0	81.6	44.4

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Robert O'Kelley*	6-1/184	12.6	1.5	1.9	41.8	73.0	35.1
C	Josh Shoemaker*	6-9/237	6.0	7.4	1.7	52.9	73.9	50.0
C	Rafael Vidaurrreta	6-9/255	3.2	3.6	0.5	50.0	60.0	0.0

Schedule

D20	St. Francis (Pa.)	J19	at Duke	F13	at Clemson
N12-23	Preseason NIT	D22	at St. John's	J23	Maryland
N18	Elon	D29	Marquette	J26	Georgia Tech
N27	Minnesota	J2	Richmond	J30	at NC State
D4	at Kansas	J7	at Navy	F2	at Florida State
D7	S. Carolina State	J12	Clemson	F6	North Carolina
D16	Florida State	J15	at Virginia	F9	Cincinnati

6. Georgia Tech

National Rank: 59

FRONTCOURT: Alvin Jones was one of those players who was never appreciated as much while he was playing as he will be now that he is gone. Jones finally made first-team All-ACC last year as a senior, when he led the conference in rebounding and finished second in blocked shots. Robert Brooks, the team's top returning shot blocker, had 11 rejections in 30 games. He jumps well but is only 6-7. With no player taller than 6-8, the team added 7-0 Australian Luke Schenscher to the roster in late August. Others who may help in the low post are fifth-year senior Michael Isenhour and recruit Ed Nelson. The most experienced frontcourt player is 6-5 Clarence Moore, who averaged nearly 18 minutes a game in 1999-2000 before being sidelined by a knee injury after five games last year.

BACKCOURT: Tony Akins is coming off a junior year in which he led the Yellow Jackets in scoring at the same time he was increasing his assists and reducing his turnovers from 1999-2000. Akins will have no shortage of roles on this year's team, not the least of which is 3-point specialist. He made a career-high 78 3-point field goals last year while shooting 41.9 from behind the arc. Marvin Lewis, nominally a forward while starting 29 games last year, moves to his natural position of shooting guard with the departure of Shaun Fein. Swingman Halston Lane had a less-defined role as a freshman, but he's capable of scoring—he contributed 23 points in 17 minutes in a game against Kentucky.

STRATEGY: Paul Hewitt was named ACC coach of the year in his first season after taking a team picked for eighth in the preseason to the NCAA Tournament. If he can repeat that kind of success this year, he might retire the award. The key to Tech's success this year will be freshmen Nelson, Schenscher, Isma'il Muhammad and Anthony McHenry. All must contribute right away. —D.D.

Yellow Jackets Data

Coach: Paul Hewitt (17-13, 1 year; 83-40 overall, 4 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Dean Keener (1 year), Willie Reese (2), Cliff Warren (1).

2000-2001 record: 17-13; ACC: 8-8/T5th. Lost to St. Joseph's in NCAA

West first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 119.

Last league title: 1996.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Atlanta.

Website: www.ramblinwreck.com

Home court: Alexander Memorial Coliseum at McDonald's Center (9,191).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
3	G	Tony Akins*	5-11/182	Sr.	14.5	3.5	4.3	44.0	75.7	41.9
34	F	Robert Brooks	6-7/215	So.	2.8	3.0	0.8	50.0	47.4	0.0
1	G	Barry Elder	6-4/205	Fr.						
51	G	Patrick Harpring	6-2/195	Sr.	0.4	0.3	0.0	14.3	0.0	50.0
44	F	Michael Isenhour	6-8/248	Sr.	0.9	1.0	0.4	25.0	58.3	—
33	G/F	Halston Lane	6-4/210	So.	6.8	2.4	1.0	41.4	75.5	37.4
24	G	Marvin Lewis*	6-3/205	So.	8.7	4.5	1.5	41.3	86.8	37.4
55	G/F	Anthony McHenry	6-6/215	Fr.						
5	F	Clarence Moore	6-5/225	So.	1.2	1.4	1.6	28.6	25.0	33.3
2	F	Isma'il Muhammad	6-6/215	Fr.						
14	G	Winston Neal	6-1/200	Sr.	0.5	0.6	0.1	28.6	—	0.0
32	F	Ed Nelson	6-8/245	Fr.						
12	C	Luke Schenscher	7-0/220	Fr.						

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Jon Babul*	6-7	5.6	3.4	1.2	35.6	80.0	29.4
G	Shaun Fein*	6-3	13.3	3.0	2.2	43.2	69.5	39.6
C	Alvin Jones*	6-11	13.4	10.4	1.8	48.2	59.6	0.0

Schedule

D19	at Davidson	J13	Maryland	F9	Duke
N16	Florida A&M	D21	Wofford	J19	at NC State
N22	Las Vegas Invit.	D23	Tulane	J22	Virginia
N28	Wisconsin	D29	IUPUI	J26	at Wake Forest
D2	at North Carolina	J2	Cornell	J30	Florida State
D9	at Georgia	J5	Clemson	F2	North Carolina
D16	at Syracuse	J10	at Duke	F6	at Clemson

7. NC State

National Rank: 67

FRONTCOURT: It's a brand new ballgame. After seemingly an eternity of Damon Thornton, Kenny Inge and Ron Kelley, the Wolfpack enters a new era with positions to be won in a potentially intriguing October and November. Marcus Melvin, a sophomore who averaged 4.3 points in 11 minutes a game last year, is the only returnee with any decent experience up front. Michael Bell, who missed all but four games of his freshman year with an injury, is the only other returnee of substance. In other words, freshmen Josh Powell, Levi Watkins and Jordan Collins will simply have to play right away. The departure of Damien Wilkins, whom coach Herb Sendek wouldn't welcome back when relatives pressured the coaches for changes in Wilkins' role, means State probably will not use a conventional small forward all the time.

BACKCOURT: Because of the small forward situation, expect a three-guard offense. The problem is there is nobody to run the point. State struggled horribly in getting into its offense last year, and a five-man recruiting class apparently didn't address the situation. There has been speculation that 6-6 Julius Hodge, the highest-rated ACC signee by some sources, will be asked to try the point. Others—3-point specialist Archie Miller, Anthony Grundy, Clifford Crawford and Scooter Sherrill—look like off-guards.

STRATEGY: The Wolfpack is going to have to crash the boards with swingmen because that's where the talent base lies. Sendek has played a slow-paced offense that has often looked stagnant. With his future allegedly in jeopardy, he may have nothing to lose by letting it all hang out. It would be nice to turn to 3-point threats, but Miller is the only proven one of those. If a couple of the big freshmen pan out and if Hodge becomes the player that Wilkins never was, the Pack will make the NIT. But to expect more than that is probably unfair. This is a young team. —R.D.

Wolfpack Data

Coach: Herb Sendek (86-74, 5 years; 149-100 overall, 8 years).

Assistant coaches: Larry Harris (5 years), Larry Hunter (1st year), Mark Phelps (5).

2000-2001 record: 13-16; ACC: 5-11, 7th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 37.

Last league title: 1987.

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Raleigh, N.C.

Website: www.gopack.com

Home court: Entertainment and Sports Arena (19,722).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
0	F	Michael Bell	6-9/200	Fr.	Redshirted; averaged 1.8 ppg in 4 games.					
32	C	Clifford Collins	6-10/240	Fr.	True freshman starter has a lot to learn.					
30	G	Clifford Crawford	6-3/190	Jr.	7.7	3.2	3.5	41.1	66.7	36.5
3	F	Ilijan Etimov	6-7/215	Fr.	Older brother Vasco played at UNC.					
2	G	Anthony Grundy*	6-3/185	So.	14.6	4.3	3.3	41.3	76.5	33.3
24	G	Julius Hodge	6-6/180	Fr.	Big expectations for McDonald's A-A.					
50	C	Kristian Jensen	7-1/215	Jr.	Team needs redshirt to contribute now.					
54	F	Marcus Melvin	6-8/225	So.	4.3	2.9	0.1	44.9	64.9	9.1
11	G	Archie Miller	5-10/160	Sr.	9.3	1.3	2.0	57.8	81.3	57.5
33	F	Josh Powell	6-9/210	Fr.	Shot 63 percent from floor in prep career.					
22	F	Will Roach	6-5/185	Fr.	Playing time could be sparse.					
23	G	Scooter Sherrill	6-3/185	So.	4.2	1.7	0.8	37.5	74.1	27.9
12	F	Levi Watkins	6-7/220	Fr.	Averaged 23.2 ppg, 11.2 rpg last season.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Kenny Inge*	6-8/235	11.9	7.2	0.5	47.8	69.1	20.0
C	Ron Kelley*	6-9/245	6.6	4.1	0.3	45.3	52.5	—
F	Damon Thornton	6-8/240	6.9	7.2	0.4	50.0	50.9	50.0
F	Damien Wilkins*	6-6/225	11.7	5.8	2.7	40.8	71.3	26.8

Schedule

N14	BCA Invitational	D15	UNC Asheville	J13	Duke	F6	Virginia
N20	James Madison	D19	Char. Southern	J15	at Clemson	F10	at Florida State
N23	The Citadel	D23	at Houston	J19	Georgia Tech	F14	at Duke
N27	at Ohio State	D30	Maryland	J23	at North Carolina	F16	Clemson
D1	Massachusetts	J5	at Virginia	J26	Temple	F20	at Georgia Tech
D5	Wofford	J8	Florida State	J30	Wake Forest	F24	North Carolina
				F3	at Maryland	M2	at Wake Forest

8. Clemson

National Rank: 73

FRONTCOURT: Chris Hobbs proved as a freshman that the teams in his native North Carolina were foolish not to take a chance on him. Hobbs, who had reconstructive knee surgery before his senior year in high school, played in 30 of 31 games and showed no ill effects from his operation. He was one of the few givens in a Clemson big-man contingent that was without 7-footer Adam Allenspach for much of the season. Hobbs was 12th in the ACC in rebounding last year, but he's a power forward—and a smallish one at that. Ray Henderson, who plays center, is more of a natural power forward. The departure of Will Solomon means Clemson probably will not play a three-guard alignment as frequently as last season. Tomas Nagys, whose productivity and minutes increased at the end of the season, would benefit from that.

BACKCOURT: Even when it appeared he would not be drafted in the first round, Solomon kept his name in the NBA draft pool and was selected in the second round. That didn't surprise the Tigers, who will turn to Tony Stockman at shooting guard. Stockman was the leading scorer among ACC freshmen last year, when he was no more than a secondary option behind Solomon. Stockman actually had a higher 3-point percentage than Solomon. Edward Scott has become increasingly comfortable in his two seasons at point guard and has shown on occasion that he can score.

STRATEGY: An upset victory over then No. 1-ranked North Carolina in February was an aberration for a Clemson team that finished 2-14 in the league and 12-19 overall. Add to that the loss of a former ACC scoring champion and first-team all-conference player in Solomon, and it's hard to see where the Tigers might be improved. Coach Larry Shyatt might not be able to survive another lackluster season in the ACC, although there is reason to believe the conference might not be as strong. —D.D.

Clemson Data

Coach: Larry Shyatt (42-54, 3 years; 61-63 overall, 4 years).

Assistant coaches: Darren Tillis (3 years), Matt Driscoll (3), Bobby Hussey (1).

2000-2001 record: 12-19. ACC: 2-14/9th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 127.

Last league title: 1990.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Clemson, S.C.

Website: www.clemsonigers.com

Home court: Littlejohn Coliseum (10,980).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
4	C	Steve Allen	6-10/235	Fr.	Tigers have been after him for years.					
12	F	Olu Babalola	6-6/245	Fr.	Shyatt likens his size to a football player's.					
14	G	Chey Christie	6-4/170	Fr.	Chose Clemson over Arizona, Oklahoma.					
35	G/F	Dwon Clifton	6-4/195	So.	3.9	2.6	0.8	37.5	46.4	29.3
5	F	Sharrod Ford	6-9/210	Fr.	A prep standout in Washington, D.C. area.					
21	F/C	Ray Henderson*	6-8/250	Jr.	5.4	4.8	0.2	53.5	56.7	—
34	F	Jemere Hendrix	6-8/215	Fr.	Shyatt likes his outside shooting ability.					
43	F	Chris Hobbs*	6-7/250	So.	7.3	6.3	0.5	56.6	68.8	—
15	G/F	Jamar McKnight	6-5/195	Sr.	3.4	1.3	0.3	42.9	71.4	39.1
31	F	Tomas Nagys	6-8/235	Jr.	3.7	4.1	0.6	39.3	65.1	45.5
10	G	Edward Scott*	6-0/180	Jr.	7.3	3.4	4.2	39.1	82.1	21.1
0	G	Tony Stockman	6-1/165	So.	12.0	1.9	2.5	37.4	83.6	38.3

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Adam Allenspach*	7-1/265	7.7	5.5	0.5	45.3	67.6	—
G	Pasha Bains	6-3/205	Transferred to Azusa Pacific.					
G	Dustin Braddick	6-5/215	Transferred to South Carolina State.					
G	Will Solomon*	6-1/185	19.7	2.9	3.4	39.7	78.8	37.7

Schedule

N17-20	Paradise Jam	D8	South Carolina	J8	Virginia	F6	Georgia Tech
N24	Wofford	D15	Elon	J12	at Wake Forest	F10	at Virginia
N27	at Penn State	D18	Winthrop	J15	NC State	F13	Wake Forest
N29	Coastal Carolina	D22	Char. Southern	J20	at Maryland	F16	at NC State
D2	at Duke	D28	at Hartford	J24	at Florida State	F20	Maryland
D5	Appalachian St.	J2	Yale	J27	North Carolina	F23	Florida State
		J5	at Georgia Tech	F3	Duke	F27	at North Carolina

9. Florida State

National Rank: 167

FRONT COURT: Coach Steve Robinson used three centers last season, with mixed success. At nearly 400 pounds, Nigel "Big Jelly" Dixon got the most giggles, but Mike Mathews showed the most promise. Mathews finished fifth in the ACC in blocked shots and showed double-figure scoring potential. But he needs to build up his endurance and become more consistent. Michael Joiner proved to be an ACC-caliber forward, although he faded down the stretch, not uncommon for a freshman. The Seminoles were a respectable fifth in the ACC in rebounding, with Joiner and swing-man Antwan Dixon both finishing in the league's top 20.

BACK COURT: Delvon Arrington is the first ACC player to take advantage of the NCAA rule that gives a partial qualifier an extra year of eligibility if he graduates in four. That was a major development for the Seminoles, considering that Arrington led them in scoring and assists. Ideally, Robinson would like Arrington to be more of a distributor, but there is nobody else to shoot the ball, at least from long range. FSU finished last in the ACC in 3-pointers per game with 4.9. Monte Cummings, a sixth man for most of last season, can create off the dribble and was a pleasant surprise as the Seminoles' second-leading scorer.

STRATEGY: For the first time, all the players on the roster are players Robinson recruited, and there's validity in his claim that the Seminoles are getting better. Whether they will get better quickly enough or dramatically enough is another matter. If top recruit Anthony Richardson is eligible, that would provide a big lift. At midsummer, his status was in question. Without great improvement, Robinson may not be able to keep his job for long after last season's 9-21 debacle. A winning season, after three straight losing ones, would be a reasonable goal. But a second-division ACC finish is practically guaranteed. —D.D.

Seminoles Data

Coach: Steve Robinson (52-67, 4 years; 98-87 overall, 6 years; 5-4 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Coleman Crawford (4 years), Rob Wilkes (1), Stephen Giles (1).
2000-2001 record: 9-21. ACC:

4-12/8th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 136.

Last league title: 1991 (Metro).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Tallahassee, Fla.

Website: www.seminoles.com

Home court: Tallahassee Leon County Civic Center (12,500).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
50	C	David Anderson	7-0/250	Sr.	1.1	1.2	0.1	37.8	36.4	—
10	G	Delvon Arrington*	5-11/170	Sr.	11.5	4.1	4.8	43.3	72.6	32.4
3	G	J.D. Bracy	6-4/205	So.	Expected to start at shooting guard.					
30	G	Monte Cummings	6-4/180	Sr.	10.7	3.3	1.8	45.3	73.6	21.4
4	F/G	Antwan Dixon*	6-5/200	Sr.	8.7	5.8	1.4	46.0	66.7	35.9
34	F/C	Nigel Dixon*	6-10/350	Jr.	6.7	5.0	0.1	48.4	45.7	—
15	C	Trevor Harvey	6-11/230	Jr.	Has a nice shooting touch for a big man.					
23	G	Marcell Haywood	5-11/180	Jr.	0.6	0.6	0.6	40.0	50.0	—
1	F	Michael Joiner*	6-7/215	So.	9.3	6.0	1.4	42.9	74.6	29.2
12	G	Ryan Lowery	6-2/180	So.	0.5	0.8	1.4	21.7	66.7	22.2
33	F/C	Mike Mathews	6-10/230	Jr.	7.3	3.1	0.1	46.6	62.7	—
5	G	Adrian McPherson	6-4/185	Fr.	Also plans to play football.					
54	F	Anthony Richardson	6-7/190	Fr.	Considered top prospect in N.C. last year.					
51	F	Adam Waleskowski	6-8/230	Fr.	Could play a lot as a true freshman.					
20	G/F	Andrew Wilson	6-6/205	So.	4.3	1.7	0.5	33.6	80.8	21.7

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Adrian Crawford*	6-5/195	10.4	2.4	1.5	38.4	69.6	34.9

Schedule

D19	Cleveland State	J16	North Carolina	F10	NC State
N16	at Florida	D22	American	J20	at Virginia
N20	Savannah State	D27	Virginia Tech	J24	Clemson
N23	Elon	D29	Campbell	J26	at Maryland
N28	at Northwestern	J2	at South Florida	J30	at Georgia Tech
D8	at W. Carolina	J6	Duke	F2	Wake Forest
D16	at Wake Forest	J8	at NC State	F7	at Duke

NCAA D-I returning leaders

Class listed is for the upcoming season

Scoring

Name, class	School	PPG
1. Tarise Bryson, Sr.	Illinois State	22.8
2. Henry Domercant, Jr.	Eastern Illinois	22.8
3. Rasual Butler, Sr.	La Salle	22.1
4. Marvin O'Connor, Sr.	St. Joseph's	22.1
5. Jason Williams, Jr.	Duke	21.6
6. Kareem Rush, Jr.	Missouri	21.1
7. Troy Bell, Jr.	Boston College	20.4
8. Wes Burtner, Sr.	Belmont	20.1
9. Devin Brown, Sr.	Texas-San Antonio	19.9

Rebounding

Name, class	School	RPG
1. Chris Marcus, Sr.	Western Kentucky	12.1
2. Reggie Evans, Sr.	Iowa	11.9
3. J.R. VanHoose, Sr.	Marshall	11.1
4. David West, Jr.	Xavier	10.9
5. Jeremy Jefferson, Sr.	Ark.-Pine Bluff	10.7
6. Kelly Wise, Sr.	Memphis	10.1
7. Erwin Dudley, Jr.	Alabama	10.0
8. Andy Savtchenko, Sr.	Radford	10.0
9. Chris Miller, Jr.	Texas Southern	10.0

Field-goal percentage

Name, class	School	FG%
1. Carlos Boozer, Jr.	Duke	60.4
2. Nick Collison, Sr.	Kansas	59.7
3. Udonis Haslem, Jr.	Florida	59.7
4. Jermaine Hall, Jr.	Wagner	58.8
5. Melvin Ely, Sr.	Fresno State	58.3

Free-throw percentage

Name, class	School	FT%
1. Gary Buchanan, Jr.	Villanova	94.7
2. Brent Jolly, Jr.	Tennessee Tech	93.1
3. Chris Spatola, Sr.	Army	89.8
4. Dominic Smith, Sr.	Houston	88.8
5. Roger Mason Jr., Jr.	Virginia	88.4

Assists

Name, class	School	APG
1. Markus Carr, Sr.	CS Northridge	8.9
2. Sean Kennedy, Sr.	Marist	8.1
3. Ashley Robinson, Sr.	Miss. Valley St.	7.4
4. Brandon Pardon, Sr.	Bowling Green	7.0
5. Kirk Hinrich, Jr.	Kansas	6.9

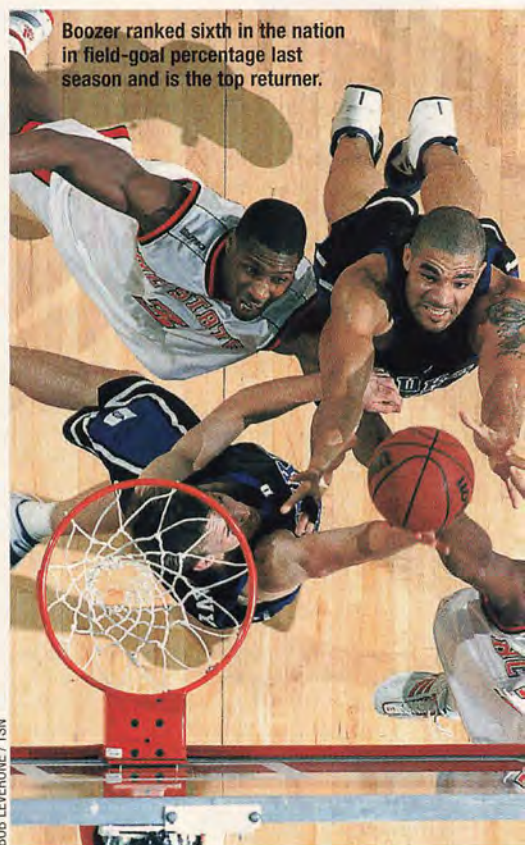
Blocked shots

Name, class	School	BPG
1. Wojciech Myrda, Sr.	La.-Monroe	4.4
2. Hondre Brewer, Sr.	San Francisco	3.8
3. Jason Jennings, Sr.	Arkansas State	3.5
4. Patrick Flomo, Sr.	Ohio	3.5
5. Chris Marcus, Sr.	Western Kentucky	3.1

Steals

Name, class	School	SPG
1. Desmond Cambridge, Sr.	Alabama A&M	3.8
2. John Linehan, Sr.	Providence	3.1
3. Andy Woodley, Sr.	Northern Iowa	3.0
4. Kevin Braswell, Sr.	Georgetown	2.8
5. Andrew Gellert, Sr.	Harvard	2.8

Boozer ranked sixth in the nation in field-goal percentage last season and is the top returner.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

PACIFIC-10

By BRUCE PASCOE

In June's NBA draft, the Pacific-10 blew away all other conferences with 11 selections. But that loss of talent doesn't mean the league will be totally in the dumps this season. A number of teams recruited well—some unearthing future NBA prospects—and won't take long to regroup.

UCLA is in good shape. It dodged the draft when Jason Kapono and Dan Gadzuric decided to return, and it recruited well. Stanford's fate hangs largely on Curtis Borchardt's right foot, which has been hampered by stress fractures the past two seasons, and USC must prove it can make it through a regular season without tiring under the relentless watch of Henry Bibby. And though Arizona has no proven big man, it's never safe to count the Wildcats out.

This may be one of those seasons the Pac-10 gets only three NCAA Tournament bids, though the league proved itself last season by producing four Sweet 16 teams from five invitations. Look for a shootout in the bottom half of the league, where as many as four teams could end up tied. Up to three NIT bids will go to those teams with winning records overall.

ASCENDING: UCLA. Say what you want about Steve Lavin, but the guy is a survivor. He lived through UCLA's public courting of Rick Pitino last season, and the Bruins rallied behind him again while making another Sweet 16 appearance. Good recruiting should make the Bruins even better. If freshman Cedric Bozeman can take over competently at point guard as expected, the Bruins should rule the conference.

Bruce Pascoe, Arizona Daily Star

Predictions

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. UCLA* | 7. Oregon State |
| 2. Southern California* | 8. Oregon |
| 3. Stanford* | 9. Washington |
| 4. Arizona* | 10. Washington State |
| 5. California* | |
| 6. Arizona State | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jason Gardner, Arizona	5-10	181	Jr.
G/F	Casey Jacobsen, Stanford	6-6	210	Jr.
F	Jason Kapono, UCLA	6-7	199	Jr.
F	Sam Clancy, USC	6-7	240	Sr.
C	Dan Gadzuric, UCLA	6-11	248	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brandon Granville, USC	5-9	175	Sr.
G	Frederick Jones, Oregon	6-4	209	Sr.
F	Matt Barnes, UCLA	6-7	230	Sr.
F	David Bluthenthal, USC	6-7	220	Sr.
F	Awvee Storey, Arizona State	6-6	221	Sr.

Player of the Year

Casey Jacobsen, Stanford

Newcomer of the Year

Josh Childress, G/F, Stanford

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Casey Jacobsen, Stanford
Best rebounder: Awvee Storey, Arizona State
Best playmaker: Brandon Granville, USC
Best defender: Matt Barnes, UCLA
Best dunker: Dan Gadzuric, UCLA
Best under 6-0: Jason Gardner, Arizona
Best 7-0 or taller: Curtis Borchardt, Stanford
Most versatile: David Bluthenthal, USC
Most flamboyant: Jason Kapono, UCLA
Best NBA prospect: Casey Jacobsen, Stanford

DESCENDING: Arizona. The Wildcats had nowhere to go but down after reaching last season's championship game and losing four players to the NBA and sparkplug Gene Edgerson. Missing out on their two top recruiting targets—forward Rick Rickert (Minnesota) and guard Aaron Miles (Kansas)—won't hasten the reloading. But Lute Olson, whose wife, Bobbi, died last season, appears as focused as ever on coaching. And he historically is at his best when expectations are low and his teams are young.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Loren Woods, Arizona. Literally—Woods wore a size 14 shoe—and figuratively. The Wildcats will attempt to fill his center spot by committee but aren't likely to have his type of shot-blocking threat this season.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Brandon Granville, USC. The explosiveness of Jeff Trepagnier and the inside-outside threat of Sam Clancy and Brian Scalabrine were fairly obvious last season. But during the few minutes Granville, the Trojans' point guard, sat down last season, USC often was out of sync.

Granville, running the show at USC for a fourth season, can stretch defenses with his 3-point shot.



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Ray Young, UCLA. A former McDonald's All-American, Young hasn't earned a consistent spot in the Bruins' starting lineup in three seasons and isn't expected to this year. He occasionally surfaces as a good defender with a crooked shot.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Bob Bender, Washington. Although Bender raised the bar somewhat with four straight postseason appearances, two straight 10-20 seasons have erased any cushion he had. In the past couple of years, he has lost top-notch guards Senque Carey and Dan Dickau to transfers, and the Huskies have only recently begun to recruit well locally. Washington won't be expected to reach the postseason, but it must show improvement.

BEST BETS: The renewal of the Pac-10 tournament will create plenty of grumbling over the havoc it has wreaked on schedules. The league took the last weekend of games and moved them to the top of the schedule, meaning Washington and Washington State must face the Los Angeles teams twice to kick off league play, endangering the confidence of the rebuilding Huskies and Cougars. The Arizona and Oregon schools similarly will meet twice early, while California and Stanford will play each other twice in the same week. ... UCLA wouldn't know how to function without its annual crisis, so something will come up before the middle of Pac-10 play. But the Bruins will recover in time to win the conference tournament at nearby Staples Center and make another respectable NCAA Tournament run. ... California will end Stanford's nine-game winning streak against the Bears during the back-to-back games in early January, but it won't necessarily do it at home. ... Similarly, Arizona State will end a 10-game losing streak against Arizona. ... A bubble team will lose early in the Pac-10 tournament and won't get in the NCAA field, prompting conference tournament opponents Lute Olson and Mike Montgomery to complain out loud again. ... Olson may not get anywhere fighting the tournament, but he will get his way when the NCAA alters its "5/8" scholarship rule to allow teams to replace scholarships for players who leave early for the NBA. A December 15 Arizona-Michigan State matchup will showcase two Final Four teams that were depleted by the rule, created in large part to keep coaches from forcing unwanted players to transfer. Under 5/8 legislation, teams can offer no more than five new scholarships each year and a maximum of eight in a two-year span, meaning Arizona could not replace the three underclassmen who went to the NBA last summer because it already had signed five players in the fall.

TSN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

- 1. UCLA:** Cedric Bozeman replaces PG Earl Watson. Dijon Thompson, Andre Patterson can help immediately.
- 2. Arizona:** Of five strong prospects, F Dennis Latimore, G Salim Stoudamire may be most ready to help.
- 3. California:** Julian Sensley likely won't stay as long as Sean Lampley. C Jamal Sampson might not either.
- 4. Stanford:** Team gets more athletic with SF Josh Childress. Chris Hernandez eventually will win PG role.
- 5. Washington:** Thanks to the football team, the Huskies attracted speedy PG Charles Frederick.
- 6. USC:** Erick Craven brings explosiveness. Rory O'Neil is reminiscent of Brian Scalabrine.
- 7. Arizona State:** PG Jason Braxton may be Rob Evans' top ASU recruit yet. SG Curtis Millage will help.
- 8. Oregon:** JC transfers Brian Helquist and Robert Johnson will help fill a wide-open middle.
- 9. Oregon State:** JC recruit Jarman Sample can help inside. Trio of high school recruits may take awhile.
- 10. Washington State:** SG Justin Lyman could start, at least until Mike Bush returns from football.

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Casey Jacobsen	Stanford	18.1
Sam Clancy	USC	17.3
Jason Kapono	UCLA	17.2
Frederick Jones	Oregon	14.8
David Bluthenthal	USC	13.5
Name	School	RPG
Awvee Storey	Arizona State	9.1
Dan Gadzuric	UCLA	8.6
Sam Clancy	USC	7.5
Matt Barnes	UCLA	7.2
David Bluthenthal	USC	6.8

Name	School	APG
Brandon Granville	USC	6.1
Shantay Legans	California	4.8
Jason Gardner	Arizona	4.1
Luke Ridnour	Oregon	3.8
Marcus Moore	Washington State	3.6
Name	School	FG%
Solomon Hughes	California	62.9
Tommy Smith	Arizona State	56.8
Dan Gadzuric	UCLA	53.4
Adam Masten	Oregon State	51.9
Brian Wethers	California	51.7

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Stanford*	16	2	31	3	12	2	19	1
Arizona*	15	3	28	8	13	2	15	6
UCLA*	14	4	23	9	12	3	11	6
USC*	11	7	24	10	12	3	12	7
California*	11	7	20	11	14	3	6	8
Oregon	5	13	14	14	8	6	6	8
Arizona State	5	13	13	16	10	7	3	9
Washington State	5	13	12	16	10	6	2	10
Washington	4	14	10	20	5	9	5	11
Oregon State	4	14	10	20	7	7	3	13

*Received NCAA bid.



CRAIG MELVIN FOR TSN

TEAM STATS

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Stanford	34	51.1	74.3	42.9	36.5	16.7	5.5	3.2	12.9	83.2
Arizona	36	47.6	74.8	35.5	39.8	16.3	7.9	4.4	15.2	81.3
UCLA	32	46.3	66.3	35.5	38.1	14.5	7.8	4.0	16.1	79.5
Oregon	28	44.8	71.8	34.4	35.9	15.2	6.3	3.5	16.1	78.1
USC	34	45.9	70.6	34.8	36.7	15.2	7.6	4.4	15.0	77.1
California	31	47.9	68.6	35.0	32.2	16.4	7.3	2.1	13.7	74.3
Arizona State	29	44.3	67.3	29.5	39.5	15.8	6.3	4.1	15.7	73.1
Washington	30	41.5	57.4	30.6	35.8	13.6	6.5	3.3	17.7	67.6
Washington State	28	42.2	70.6	33.8	32.6	9.8	7.0	2.8	15.7	66.9
Oregon State	30	43.6	72.7	33.4	27.3	13.2	5.2	1.5	12.7	61.9

Opponents' stats

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Oregon State	30	45.5	67.5	34.4	33.1	13.1	5.4	2.8	13.2	63.8
Stanford	34	42.7	65.9	32.9	29.1	12.1	5.8	2.7	14.4	65.5
Arizona	36	39.7	67.6	30.5	33.2	13.1	6.1	2.7	16.3	66.3
California	31	43.6	71.3	37.8	33.1	15.5	5.8	3.5	16.2	68.6
Washington State	28	45.7	69.2	36.8	34.5	13.3	5.6	3.8	15.1	70.3
Arizona State	29	42.4	70.9	34.9	33.4	13.3	6.7	3.6	16.3	71.0
USC	34	42.8	68.8	35.8	34.5	13.4	6.9	2.1	15.5	71.2
UCLA	32	43.7	68.8	31.4	35.5	14.8	6.4	2.8	17.4	74.4
Washington	30	46.8	68.7	31.6	38.8	14.7	7.7	3.0	16.8	76.7
Oregon	28	45.2	67.5	33.0	35.5	12.6	7.4	3.1	14.8	77.3

1. UCLA

Schedule

N19-21 Maui Invitational
 N28 Pepperdine
 D5 UC Riverside
 D8 Alabama*
 D15 UC Irvine
 D20 at Washington
 D22 at Wash. State
 D27 Columbia
 D29 Georgetown
 J4 Washington
 J6 Washington State
 J10 at USC
 J12 Kansas
 J17 at Arizona State
 J19 at Arizona
 J24 Stanford
 J26 California
 J31 at Oregon
 F2 at Oregon State
 F6 USC
 F9 at Villanova
 F14 Arizona
 F16 Arizona State
 F21 at California
 F23 at Stanford
 F28 Oregon State
 M2 Oregon
 *at Anaheim, Calif.

National Rank: 6

FRONTCOURT: Center Dan Gadzuric never solved his tendency to get in foul trouble last season, but he developed confidence and at last became one of the conference's top big men. He dropped 22 points and 17 rebounds on a stunned Arizona team in February; if he can put up anything close to those numbers on a consistent basis, he will be tough to deal with in a conference that lost many of its best post players. This season, the Bruins can afford to play Gadzuric without worry most of the time, as they have T.J. Cummings, Matt Barnes, Josiah Johnson and Andre Patterson available to play at the post spots in case of foul trouble. Barnes established himself as one of the tougher power-forward matchups in the Pac-10 last season because of his quickness, and he was a key in the Bruins' full-court press. Cummings is athletic and can put the ball on the floor. UCLA is counting on him to improve significantly in his sophomore season. Johnson red-shirted last season after suffering a stress fracture in his foot. Power forward Jason Kapono, a league MVP candidate, is a good ballhandler

and a crafty shooter who can hit jumpers from nearly anywhere on the floor. Patterson can play either forward spot, and Spencer Gloger, a transfer from Princeton, is a big shooter from the wing.

BACKCOURT: The Bruins lost one of their toughest players ever, point guard Earl Watson, but they will try to replace him with Cedric Bozeman, who is bigger and has great leadership potential. UCLA is loaded at shooting guard and small forward. Rico Hines, who sat out last season after knee surgery, will battle Billy Knight for playing time at shooting guard. Knight, a starter late last season, can stretch defenses with his shooting, though he doesn't always drive or create shots well. Freshman Dijon Thompson also will figure into the wing rotation. He has his eyes on the backup point guard slot, but Bozeman and Ryan Walcott already are there.

STRATEGY: The tireless Bruins were effective in a full-court press late last season. With their increased depth this year, coach Steve Lavin says they will go with it for 40 minutes. They also have the flexibility to put a big or small lineup on the floor, which plays right into Lavin's hands: He loves to push his players' buttons by tinkering with lineups. Expect UCLA to use a rotation of at least 10 players and employ 12 or more starting lineups. If things don't get



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

A deep frontcourt rotation means Gadzuric, the league's best center, can play his game and not have to worry about fouling out.

chaotic off the court, they may remain so on the court.

KEY TO THE SEASON: Lavin's teams have thrived on off-court adversity. After an embarrassing incident in which UCLA openly courted Rick Pitino for Lavin's job last season, the Bruins finished the season strong and reached the Sweet 16. As a result, Lavin has as much job security as ever. An absence of controversy could make it too quiet in Westwood, possibly keeping the Bruins from developing an us-against-the-world mentality in a season in which plenty of teams will be gunning for them. But that assumes nothing will happen off court. At UCLA, that's a very dangerous assumption.

Bruins Data

Coach: Steve Lavin (114-47, 5 years; 9-5 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Jim Saia (5 years), Steve Spencer (5), Gerald Madkins (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 23-9. Pac-10: 14-4/3rd. Lost to Duke in NCAA East semifinal.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 18.

Last league title: 1997.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1988.

Site: Los Angeles.

Website: www.uclabruins.com

Home court: Pauley Pavilion (12,800).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.
23	F	Matt Barnes*	Citrus Heights, Calif.	6-7/230	Sr.
21	G	Cedric Bozeman	Los Angeles	6-6/183	Fr.
43	F	T.J. Cummings	Homewood, Ill.	6-9/205	So.
50	C	Dan Gadzuric*	Den Haag, Holland	6-11/248	Sr.
4	F	Spencer Gloger	Mission Viejo, Calif.	6-7/205	So.
22	G/F	Rico Hines	Greenville, N.C.	6-4/217	Sr.
52	C	John Hoffart	Davis, Calif.	6-10/286	So.
54	F	Josiah Johnson	Los Angeles	6-8/240	Fr.
24	F	Jason Kapono*	Lakewood, Calif.	6-7/199	Jr.
3	G/F	Billy Knight*	Los Angeles	6-5/210	Sr.
	G/F	Sam Nelson	Costa Mesa, Calif.	6-4/204	Jr.
5	F	Andre Patterson	Los Angeles	6-8/210	Fr.
1	G/F	Dijon Thompson	Redondo Beach, Calif.	6-6/180	Fr.
10	G	Ryan Walcott	Phoenix	6-2/175	Fr.
34	G	Ray Young	Oakland	6-3/210	Sr.

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Ryan Bailey	Los Angeles	6-2/207	2.2	1.0	1.0	35.1	62.9	20.0
G	Jason Flowers	Bellflower, Calif.	6-0/180	1.2	0.6	0.7	42.9	75.0	28.6
G	Earl Watson*	Kansas City, Kan.	6-1/195	14.7	3.7	5.2	49.3	63.6	35.2

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
11.6	7.3	2.7	47.8	57.4	12.0
Was named McDonald's All-American.					
6.4	3.5	0.4	48.5	65.2	0.0
11.7	8.6	0.6	53.4	45.3	—
Sat out last season after transfer from Princeton.					
Averaged 3.4 ppg, 2.1 rpg in 1999-2000.					
17.2	5.7	2.3	44.1	86.9	45.7
7.9	1.9	0.6	46.0	73.2	42.1
0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	—	—
Was McDonald's All-American finalist.					
Was California 2A co-Player of the Year.					
Cousin of Sacramento Kings' Mike Bibby.					
7.0	2.2	1.4	35.2	82.2	21.2

2. USC

National Rank: 13

Schedule

N13 Wyoming*
 N26 UC Santa Barbara
 D1 at Bradley
 D3/4 Rhode Island
 D7 Pepperdine**
 D12 at Long Beach St.
 D16 Miami (Ohio)
 D20 at San Diego
 D22 at Loyola Mary.
 D27 at Washington
 D29 at Wash. State
 J4 Washington State
 J6 Washington
 J9 UCLA
 J17 at Arizona
 J19 at Arizona State
 J24 California
 J26 Stanford
 J31 at Oregon State
 F2 at Oregon
 F6 at UCLA
 F14 Arizona State
 F16 Arizona
 F21 at Stanford
 F23 at California
 F28 Oregon
 M2 Oregon State
 *Preseason NIT
 **at Las Vegas

FRONT COURT: Coach Henry Bibby is counting on Kostas Charissis to move into the starting center spot, and not just because the 6-11, 250-pounder has shown potential as a scorer and rebounder. If Charissis can handle the low post, Bibby can keep Sam Clancy at power forward and David Bluthenthal at small forward, positions where the veterans are most likely to dominate. Bluthenthal is a good shooter and post-up player with plenty of athleticism who can cause maddening matchup problems at small forward. He also became a tougher defender last season. Clancy has developed into one of the league's dominant players, even while playing on teams designed to get Brian Scalabrine or Bluthenthal the ball first. Bibby says the Trojans will make an effort to feed Clancy this season but that Clancy needs to get tougher. If Charissis doesn't work out, USC can go with a smaller lineup that features Bluthenthal and Clancy inside, with Desmon Farmer and possibly Errick Craven on the wings. There also are options in Rory O'Neil and Nicholas Curtis. O'Neil has the potential to develop into a solid center with plenty of offensive skills. Curtis can help on the boards.

BACK COURT: Point guard Brandon Granville isn't just the engine that runs this team—he's also a decent 3-point shooter who can stretch defenses. Farmer was thrown into the fire last season at shooting guard when Jeff Trepagnier was suspended for taking a free trip to Las Vegas. But Farmer survived, proving explosive and physical at times. This season, the position is his. Bibby insists he's treating twins Errick and Derrick Craven equally—both are athletic and adequate defenders—but Errick was rated higher out of high school because of his ability to get to the basket. He likely will get more playing time early. Robert Hutchinson again will back up Granville.

STRATEGY: Though the Trojans are less athletic with Trepagnier gone, he wasn't a good shooter and didn't score as much as the team expected. Either Charissis or O'Neil must produce at least adequately to allow Clancy and Bluthenthal to maximize their abilities. Additionally, Farmer must settle down. Too many times, he played wildly last season, and Bibby is hoping Farmer incorporates more of the controlled USC offense into his style. Bibby is known to play his starters heavily—maybe too heavily—but they at least know it's coming by now.

Trojans Data

Coach: Henry Bibby (81-67, 5 years; 3-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: David Miller (5 years), Damon Archibald (1).

2000-2001 record: 24-10. Pac-10: 11-7/T4th. Lost to Duke in NCAA East final.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 21.

Last league title: 1985 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Los Angeles.

Website: www.usctrojans.com

Home court: Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena (15,509).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.
34	F	David Bluthenthal*	Los Angeles	6-7/220	Sr.
14	G	Gennaro Busterna	Denver	6-3/205	Sr.
15	C	Kostas Charissis	Athens, Greece	6-11/250	Jr.
50	F	Sam Clancy*	Fairview, Ohio	6-7/240	Sr.
24	G	Derrick Craven	Torrance, Calif.	6-2/170	Fr.
22	G	Errick Craven	Torrance, Calif.	6-2/170	Fr.
44	F	Nicholas Curtis	Oxnard, Calif.	6-8/220	Fr.
33	G	Desmon Farmer	Flint, Mich.	6-4/225	So.
5	G	Brandon Granville*	Los Angeles	5-9/175	Sr.
1	G	Nate Hair	Mission Viejo, Calif.	6-4/220	Jr.
4	G	Robert Hutchinson	Albany, Ga.	6-1/195	Jr.
21	C	Rory O'Neil	Ridgecrest, Calif.	6-11/220	Fr.

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Tyler Murphy	Los Angeles	6-5/190	2.2	1.4	0.6	42.0	68.8	34.3
F/C	Brian Scalabrine*	Enumclaw, Wash.	6-9/250	14.7	5.9	2.8	47.8	80.1	30.3
G	Jeff Trepagnier*	Compton, Calif.	6-4/195	9.0	5.1	1.6	45.3	60.7	23.5
F	Jarvis Turner	Bakersfield, Calif.	6-8/240	3.6	2.4	0.5	55.7	56.8	42.9

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
13.5	6.8	1.4	47.2	78.6	40.9
0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	—	0.0
1.2	1.2	0.0	44.4	625	—
17.3	7.5	1.0	50.1	65.9	100.0
Averaged 16.4 ppg as high school senior.					
Averaged 19.9 ppg as high school senior.					
Will contribute depth in the frontcourt.					
6.4	2.8	1.0	41.9	55.7	33.8
12.4	2.7	6.1	42.8	79.1	37.2
1.7	1.4	2.7	20.0	50.0	22.2
1.2	0.6	0.7	32.4	69.2	27.3
Averaged 25.1 ppg as high school senior.					



JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Despite playing a bit wildly at times, Farmer proved to be an explosive off-guard last season. But he may see time at small forward this season.

KEY TO THE SEASON: The Trojans have enough veterans and accomplished enough last season that they shouldn't be daunted by high expectations. But they still haven't assumed Bibby's scowling persona enough for his taste. Bibby wants his players to be like he was—bulldog-tough and willing to play 40 minutes without complaining—but he has had trouble getting his message across. Bibby has bristled when his players have suggested they were tiring, and he banned them from speaking to the media after a game last season apparently for fear they might psych themselves out. If the Trojans get over these mental obstacles, there won't be many physical ones in their way. They should return to the NCAA Tournament.

3. Stanford

National Rank: 15

Schedule

N17 at New Mexico
 N20 Southern Utah
 N24 Purdue*
 D1 Texas**
 D15 Long Beach State
 D18-19 Stanford Invit.
 D29 TBA
 J4 California
 J6 at California
 J10 at Oregon State
 J12 at Oregon
 J17 Washington State
 J19 Washington
 J24 at UCLA
 J26 at USC
 J31 Arizona State
 F2 Arizona
 F7 Oregon
 F9 Oregon State
 F14 at Washington
 F16 at Washington St.
 F21 USC
 F23 UCLA
 F28 at Arizona
 M2 at Arizona State
 *at Indianapolis
 **at Chicago
 ***at Las Vegas

FRONTCOURT: Jason Collins' late decision to remain in the NBA draft along with brother Jarron not only tore the Cardinal post apart, it made it impossible for Stanford to recruit an immediate replacement last spring. Though the Cardinal did recruit well, it brought in only one post player—Robert Little, a big body who is being counted on for rebounding and defense only. The team also won't have the services of forward/wide receiver Teyo Johnson until after football season. Until December, the two post spots could belong to 7-0 Curtis Borchardt, who has been plagued by stress fractures in his right foot the past two seasons and isn't expected to play competitively until October, and Justin Davis, with only unproven sophomore Joe Kirchofer and Little behind them. When he is healthy, Borchardt is a top-notch shot blocker who can shoot with range. Davis is a solid bet inside as an explosive presence who gives the Cardinal a more athletic look. Newcomer Josh Childress will start at small forward. He gives the Cardinal a more athletic look, and he should contribute on defense right away.

BACKCOURT: Off-guard Casey Jacobsen might be the league's best player, an explosive scorer who has a knack for coming up with big shots at the right time. He is a terrific shooter who has improved at putting the ball on the floor. At point guard, Stanford has a number of possibilities. Steady, if not flashy, guard Tony Giovacchini will enter the season with the starting job. Julius Barnes also is an option, though he didn't help himself with a poor outing on the team's spring tour of Australia. It might not take long for freshman Chris Hernandez to emerge as the best of the bunch. Coach Mike Montgomery mostly is looking for consistency at the spot, which may help Giovacchini stay on the floor. Kyle Logan, Matt Lottich and Nick Robinson are among the backup options on the wings; Lottich's shooting touch should get him some time.

STRATEGY: A plodder no more, Stanford showed a more athletic look last season. It will have even quicker lineups this season when Childress and Davis are featured, making the team tougher to stop. But Stanford won't be nearly as big, especially if Borchardt is out. Its rebounding, in the past used to control games along with stifling position defense, will probably go down a notch, too. The Cardinal's trademark high-low offense still will be used but not as



JOHN CORDEN FOR TSN

Jacobsen, a Pac-10 player of the year favorite, has improved his ballhandling but still must score plenty of points, thanks to a thin frontcourt.

frequently, especially if Borchardt is out. If Borchardt is there to help make it happen, the Cardinal can employ a bigger lineup and be potent enough to beat opponents in different ways. If Borchardt isn't, Jacobsen will be relied on even more to make things happen.

KEY TO THE SEASON: Never before has Stanford needed Borchardt this badly. But with the Collins twins gone, the Cardinal needs him to create some semblance of an inside-outside attack. With Borchardt, Stanford is a legitimate Pac-10 contender and could make another deep NCAA Tournament run. Without him, Stanford will be more athletic and deep at the wing spots but too shallow inside to have a major impact.

Cardinal Data

Coach: Mike Montgomery (319-146, 15 years; 473-223 overall, 23 years; 13-9 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Tony Fuller (2 years), Eric Reveno (5), Russell Turner (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 31-3. Pac-10: 16-2/1st. Lost to Maryland in NCAA West final.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 4.

Last league title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.

Site: Palo Alto, Calif.

Website: www.gostanford.com

Home court: Maples Pavilion (7,391).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
24	G	Julius Barnes	Rowland Heights, Calif.	6-1/180	Jr.	4.4	1.4	1.0	38.1	72.7	31.7
2	C	Curtis Borchardt	Redmond, Wash.	7-0/230	Jr.	6.4	4.2	0.7	53.4	76.8	42.9
1	G/F	Josh Childress	Lakewood, Calif.	6-7/190	Fr.	Expected to contribute immediately on defense.					
22	F	Justin Davis	Berkeley, Calif.	6-8/230	So.	3.9	3.0	0.4	51.4	44.2	—
25	G	Tony Giovacchini	Salt Lake City	6-2/180	Sr.	2.0	1.0	1.9	34.5	60.0	18.2
11	G	Chris Hernandez	Fresno, Calif.	6-2/180	Fr.	Expected to compete for point guard job.					
23	G/F	Casey Jacobsen*	Glendora, Calif.	6-6/210	Jr.	18.1	4.0	2.3	50.8	81.3	47.2
5	F	Teyo Johnson	San Diego	6-7/256	So.	4.1	22	0.6	51.3	65.0	45.5
00	F	Joe Kirchofer	Elk Grove, Calif.	6-9/240	So.	Redshirted last season.					
42	C	Robert Little	Fairfax, Va.	6-10/265	Fr.	An all-Virginia selection as high school senior.					
3	G/F	Kyle Logan	Hagerstown, Md.	6-5/202	Jr.	1.6	0.7	0.4	45.5	50.0	0.0
33	G	Matt Lottich	Winnetka, Ill.	6-4/190	So.	2.7	0.8	0.4	48.9	83.3	40.7
21	F/G	Nick Robinson	Liberty, Mo.	6-6/195	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Jarron Collins*	North Hollywood, Ca.	6-10/248	12.8	6.7	1.4	55.8	68.7	33.3
C	Jason Collins*	North Hollywood, Ca.	6-11/255	14.5	7.8	1.5	61.3	78.4	46.2
G	Michael McDonald*	Long Beach, Calif.	6-1/170	8.0	2.8	4.9	49.0	72.4	51.4
F	Ryan Mendez*	Burleson, Texas	6-7/210	11.4	3.3	2.2	47.6	93.1	40.0

4. Arizona

National Rank: 32

FRONTCOURT: The Wildcats will try to fill the middle with freshmen Andrew Zahn, Isaiah Fox and Channing Frye. Zahn learned the system while redshirting last season but lacks stamina. Fox, whose father was an offensive lineman for the Wildcats in the early 1980s, physically is strong enough to play right away. Frye needs more bulk. Arizona also could use Dennis Latimore, its most skilled freshman, at center in certain matchups. The team has moved crafty scorer Rick Anderson off the wing to power forward. The coaches raved about his progress in closed practices last season, when Anderson redshirted by his own choice. Veteran Luke Walton is back at small forward. He does nearly everything well on the court, especially passing, but he doesn't shoot well. If Walton ever develops a jumper, watch out.

BACKCOURT: Jason Gardner was upset after a poor pre-draft camp in Chicago led to his dropping out of the NBA Draft last summer. Assuming Gardner gets back in the right frame of mind, he will be a seasoned leader for this young team. Sophomore Travis Hanour, who didn't develop much confidence last season, and freshman Salim Stoudamire are candidates at shooting guard. Stoudamire, cousin of former Wildcat Damon Stoudamire, was a big-time high school scorer in Portland, Ore. Wil Bynum is a tough, athletic freshman who is expected to find time at both guard spots immediately.

STRATEGY: Despite the loss of big men Loren Woods and Richard Jefferson, it's not quite a return to Backcourt U. Anderson and Walton will be the go-to players, and Gardner will be asked to shoot more. For the Wildcats to succeed, Anderson must take a starring role, and the team must find a perimeter shooting threat. If it survives a murderous non-conference schedule, Arizona may improve enough to be a factor in the league race by season's end.

Wildcats Data

Coach: Lute Olson (447-133, 18 years; 639-225 overall, 28 years; 37-22 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1997).

Assistant coaches: Jim Rosborough (12 years), Rodney Tention (4), Jay John (3).

2000-2001 record: 28-8. Pac-10: 15-3/2nd. Lost to Duke in NCAA title game.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 2.
Last league title: 2000 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1984.
Site: Tucson, Ariz.
Website: www.arizcats.com
Home court: McKale Center (14,545).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
33	F	Rick Anderson	6-9/213	Jr.	Averaged 4.5 ppg, 2.2 rpg in 1999-2000.					
3	G	Wil Bynum	5-10/170	Fr.	Averaged 27 ppg as high school senior.					
52	C	Isaiah Fox	6-9/255	Fr.	Was McDonald's All-American nominee.					
45	C	Channing Frye	6-10/230	Fr.	Was Arizona Gatorade Player of the Year.					
22	G	Jason Gardner*	5-10/181	Jr.	10.9	3.0	4.1	38.1	80.9	36.7
5	G	Travis Hanour	6-6/189	So.	3.1	1.4	0.6	33.9	90.0	18.5
34	F	Dennis Latimore	6-8/230	Fr.	Was named Kansas 3A Player of the Year.					
11	G	Jason Ranne	6-4/230	So.	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
21	F	Mike Schwertley	6-5/225	So.	1.1	0.9	0.1	30.0	57.1	100.0
20	G	Salim Stoudamire	6-2/175	Fr.	All-time Oregon 4A scorer (2,219 points).					
4	F	Luke Walton	6-8/233	Jr.	5.5	3.9	3.2	42.0	67.2	22.0
13	F	Andrew Zahn	6-9/254	Fr.	Redshirted last season for conditioning.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Gilbert Arenas*	6-3/188	16.2	3.6	2.3	47.9	72.4	41.6
F	Eugene Edgerson	6-6/230	4.6	4.0	0.2	57.6	68.6	—
F	Richard Jefferson*	6-7/222	11.3	5.4	2.7	47.9	65.5	34.4
C	Loren Woods*	7-1/244	13.2	6.5	2.1	50.4	83.0	33.3
F	Michael Wright*	6-7/238	15.6	7.8	0.3	59.4	79.7	0.0

Schedule

D22	at Oregon	J23	at Arizona State	F20	Arizona State
N8-9 Coaches v. Cancer Cl.	D28-30 Fiesta Bowl Cl.	J26	Connecticut	F28	Stanford
N27	at Texas	J31	at California	M2	California
D1	Kansas	F2	at Stanford	*at Phoenix	
D4	Illinois*	J10	at Wash. St.	F7	Washington
D8	Purdue**	J12	at Washington	F9	Washington State
D15	at Michigan St.	J17	USC	F14	at UCLA
D20	at Oregon State	J19	UCLA	F16	at USC

5. California

National Rank: 44

FRONTCOURT: Standout recruit Jamal Sampson is ready to join Solomon Hughes at center, while Hughes' brother Gabriel and Lithuanian Saulius Kuzminskas also will compete for time inside. Big and quick, if not overly strong, Solomon Hughes began to break out late last season and should be a full-time factor this season. He might also be used to help replace power forward Sean Lampley. Top recruit Julian Sensley was expected to step in for Lampley, the school's all-time leading scorer, but Sensley lost an academic appeal to the NCAA late in the summer. (If a possible second appeal is successful, he could be eligible in December.) Joe Shipp returns at small forward, where he has improved his driving along with his 3-point shooting. But there also is well-regarded freshman Erik Bond and former walk-on Ryan Forehan-Kelly, who has become a strong defender and 3-point shooter.

BACKCOURT: Shantay Legans made a big leap from freshman to sophomore at point guard last season, clearly establishing himself over Donte Smith. Legans generously is listed at 5-10, but he is an underrated playmaker who can hit 3s. By the end of last season, walk-on A.J. Diggs had taken the backup point role, and Smith played mostly shooting guard behind Brian Wethers, a big guard who can drive to the basket. Wethers is a flashy athlete who can defend well, too. Dennis Gates, who missed all of three games after an appendectomy last season, is a rugged defender off the bench.

STRATEGY: The Golden Bears had their best success last season when they ran the offense through Lampley. That's no longer an option, but Sampson should be more than serviceable as a freshman, and Hughes has made offensive strides. The Bears, tabbed as an NCAA Tournament pick, could struggle to land a bid if a go-to player doesn't develop and if depth in the frontcourt is lacking without Sensley.

Golden Bears Data

Coach: Ben Braun (95-61, 5 years; 428-296 overall, 24 years; 4-5 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Louis Reynaud (4 years), Jon Wheeler (2), Joe Pasternack (1).

2000-2001 record: 20-11. Pac-10:

11-7/T4th. Lost to Fresno State in NCAA South first round.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 71.
Last league title: 1960.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.
Site: Berkeley, Calif.
Website: www.calbears.com
Home court: Haas Pavilion (12,127).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
30	F/G	Erik Bond	6-7/195	Fr.	Was Wash. state player of the year in 2000.					
2	G	A.J. Diggs	5-10/160	So.	1.2	1.1	0.7	50.0	68.4	50.0
40	F	Conor Famulener	6-6/225	So.	0.6	0.3	0.0	40.0	50.0	33.3
42	G/F	Ryan Forehan-Kelly	6-5/195	Sr.	7.2	2.7	2.0	46.4	78.4	41.8
15	G	Dennis Gates	6-3/195	Sr.	3.4	0.9	1.3	36.6	90.3	29.3
33	F/C	Gabriel Hughes	6-10/215	So.	0.4	0.6	0.1	33.3	25.0	—
14	F/C	Solomon Hughes*	6-11/225	Sr.	8.2	4.0	0.4	62.9	78.4	41.8
45	F/C	Saulius Kuzminskas	6-11/220	So.	0.4	0.5	0.0	25.0	66.7	0.0
12	G	Shantay Legans*	5-10/175	Jr.	9.5	2.7	4.8	42.9	78.5	38.2
31	C	Jamal Sampson	6-11/225	Fr.	Received Parade All-American honors.					
41	F	Julian Sensley	6-8/230	Fr.	Lost an academic appeal to NCAA in August.					
34	F	Joe Shipp*	6-5/220	Jr.	8.4	2.8	1.2	44.0	70.0	31.5
3	G	Donte Smith	6-2/190	Jr.	2.4	0.5	0.6	36.2	80.0	23.3
22	G	Ronnie West	6-3/190	So.	0.4	0.1	0.1	40.0	—	50.0
25	G/F	Brian Wethers*	6-5/210	Jr.	8.5	2.3	1.5	51.7	72.7	43.9

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Sean Lampley*	6-7/225	19.5	7.2	3.3	50.2	73.8	21.2
C	Nick Vander Laan	6-10/245				Transferred to Virginia.		

Schedule

N15-16 BCA Classic	D21	Mount St. Mary's	J19	Washington State	F14	at Washington St.
N20 Santa Clara	D28-29	Golden Bear Cl.	J24	at USC	F16	at Washington
N28 New Mexico	J4	at Stanford	J26	at UCLA	F21	UCLA
D1 at South Florida	J6	Stanford	J31	Arizona	F23	USC
D6 Saint Louis	J10	at Oregon	F2	Arizona State	F28	at Arizona State
D8 at Cleveland St.	J12	at Oregon State	F7	Oregon State	M2	at Arizona

6. Arizona State

National Rank: 61

FRONTCOURT: Believe it or not, Awvee Storey, the Pac-10's leading rebounder last season and the Sun Devils' top scorer, could come off the bench this season. Chances are, Storey will work his way into heavy action again, but the team is expecting Tommy Smith to develop into a go-to man at power forward, and steady Chad Prewitt has added more offensive range at center. JC transfer Chris Osborne will add depth in the post as well. Storey may play small forward in some situations, but ASU has options there, too, in Shawn Redhage, who has faded late the past two seasons, and Donnell Knight, who has been disappointing since his arrival. Other candidates for time are Tanner Shell, who missed nearly all of last season with back and hand injuries, and Justin Allen, who spent last year being treated for Hodgkin's disease. When he lost his hair, his teammates shaved their heads in a show of solidarity. While he recovered, Allen worked on his jumper.

BACKCOURT: The Sun Devils lost only one player from last season's team, point guard Alton Mason, but they found a talented recruit in athletic freshman Jason Braxton, who will compete with slippery but skinny Kyle Dodd for the starting job there. Dodd was the starting point guard on the team's spring trip to Australia. Junior college transfer and wing Curtis Millage is an explosive player at shooting guard, and Shell can move to off-guard in bigger lineups. Kenny Crandall averaged 28 minutes a game three years ago before setting off on a Mormon mission; he may average only half that time now at point guard and either wing spot.

STRATEGY: Braxton has the ability to push the ball, and ASU has the depth to play an aggressive, uptempo style. The Sun Devils have had a lot of pretty good players but no stars since Eddie House left. They need Smith to stay out of foul trouble and become that star. If he does, ASU should reach the postseason.

Sun Devils Data

Coach: Rob Evans (46-45, 3 years; 132-126 overall, 9 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Russ Pennell (3 years), Tony Benford (3), Dan O'Dowd (3).

2000-2001 record: 13-16. Pac-10:

5-13/T6th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 107.

Last league title: 1975 (WAC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Tempe, Ariz.

Website: www.thesundevils.com

Home court: Wells Fargo Arena (14,198).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
24	G/F	Justin Allen	6-7/214	Jr.	Redshirted last season due to Hodgkin's. Expected to see much playing time.					
	G	Jason Braxton	6-3/180	So.	Spent last two years on Mormon mission.					
	G	Kenny Crandall	6-4/205	So.						
3	G	Kyle Dodd	6-0/165	Jr.	4.8	2.2	2.0	36.8	71.0	32.1
32	G	Brandon Goldman	5-9/167	Jr.	Walk-on played no minutes last season.					
22	C	Tyson Johnston	7-0/250	Jr.	1.4	1.5	0.3	39.0	23.8	—
2	F	Donnell Knight*	6-7/200	Jr.	9.8	4.6	2.1	41.5	68.4	30.6
	G	Curtis Millage	6-2/180	Jr.	Transfer from Los Angeles Southwest JC.					
20	G	Brad Nahr	6-4/209	Sr.	2.4	1.1	1.0	32.1	71.4	25.7
	F	Chris Osborne	6-9/240	Jr.	Transfer from Compton (Calif.) College					
52	F/C	Chad Prewitt*	6-9/241	Sr.	10.1	4.9	2.1	48.1	63.7	35.1
42	F	Shawn Redhage*	6-7/214	Jr.	8.1	4.2	2.1	40.4	81.6	26.7
15	G	Tanner Shell	6-6/216	So.	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
4	F	Tommy Smith	6-9/210	Jr.	9.3	4.5	1.4	56.8	61.5	25.0
1	F	Awvee Storey*	6-6/221	Sr.	13.1	9.1	0.9	49.8	60.2	50.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Alton Mason*	6-1/186	13.4	3.5	3.8	41.4	74.6	29.1

Schedule

N17	Stephen F. Austin	D20	at Oregon	J12	at Washington St.	F9	Washington
N20	Portland State	D22	at Oregon State	J17	UCLA	F14	at USC
N24	at BYU	D28-29	Arizona St. Trn.	J19	USC	F16	at UCLA
N27	UC Riverside	J4	Oregon State	J23	Arizona	F20	at Arizona
D1	Prairie View A&M	J6	Oregon	J31	at Stanford	F28	California
D4	Utah*	J10	at Washington	F2	at California	M2	Stanford
				F7	Washington State	*at Phoenix	

Beavers Data

Coach: Ritchie McKay (10-20, 1 year; 71-72 overall, 5 years).

Assistant coaches: Brad Soucie (1 year), Scott Didrickson (1), Lance Richardson (1).

2000-2001 record: 10-20. Pac-10: 4-14/T9th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 61.

Last league title: 1990 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Corvallis, Ore.

Website: www.osubeavers.com

Home court: Gill Coliseum (10,400).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Mike Cokely	5-8/171	Jr.	2.0	0.8	0.7	45.0	57.1	38.2
1	G	Jimmie Haywood*	6-2/166	Jr.	8.9	2.8	1.8	45.3	76.7	35.2
3	F	Brian Jackson*	6-9/239	Jr.	9.7	4.2	1.9	43.6	74.5	32.1
44	C	Chris Manker	6-10/202	So.	1.6	2.0	0.5	28.6	60.0	20.0
32	G/F	Adam Masten*	6-5/200	Sr.	8.4	4.5	3.0	51.9	72.6	42.1
	G	J.S. Nash	6-2/185	Fr.	Expected to add quality outside shooting.					
	G/F	Floyd North III	6-5/220	Fr.	Averaged 23.6 ppg as high school senior.					
10	G	Brandon Payton	6-0/170	Sr.	Younger brother of NBA's Gary Payton.					
24	C	Derek Potter	6-11/217	Fr.	Redshirted last season due to broken toe.					
31	F	Philip Ricci	6-7/252	Jr.	Redshirted last season due to knee injury.					
	F	Jarman Sample	6-9/215	So.	Transferred from Colby (Kan.) CC.					
	G	Joe See	6-0/175	Fr.	Averaged 18 ppg as high school senior.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Jason Heide*	6-9/260	14.3	5.5	1.3	52.2	65.8	0.0
G	Emonte Jernigan	6-1/190	Transferred.					
G	Josh Steinthal	6-4/201	4.9	1.3	0.9	26.2	73.7	26.0
G	Deaundra Tanner*	6-1/202	9.4	4.3	3.7	33.8	73.9	25.8

Schedule

N17	No. Colorado	D20	Arizona	J12	California	F9	at Stanford
N21-24	Gr. Alaska Shoot	D22	Arizona State	J19	Oregon	F16	at Oregon
N26	San Diego	D27	IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	J24	at Wash. State	F18	Portland
N30	Southern Utah	D31	Lehigh	J26	at Washington	F21	Washington
D12	at Portland State	J4	at Arizona State	J31	USC	F23	Washington State
D15	at Cal Poly SLO	J6	at Arizona	F2	UCLA	F28	at UCLA
		J10	Stanford	F7	at California	M2	at USC

7. Oregon State

National Rank: 81

FRONTCOURT: The Beavers' best player last season never got off the practice floor, but that was Philip Ricci's choice. The forward wanted to wait until the partial ligament tear in his left knee healed fully, so he opted to redshirt. But he still managed to destroy the OSU starters during practices. Although OSU has some developing post players—JC transfer Jarman Sample among them—the Beavers probably will have to place Ricci inside. Brian Jackson will be the power forward, in part because he has proved too clumsy to play center. Jackson spent much of the offseason taking karate and yoga classes to improve his balance, which could help keep his knees off the floor and his body out of foul trouble. Adam Masten, a good all-around player who can shoot the 3, likely will play at small forward.

BACKCOURT: Point guard Brandon Payton, a transfer from UC Santa Barbara, isn't known for good shooting, as predecessor Deaundra Tanner was, but he is vocal and athletic. Jimmie Haywood, who is explosive athletically, will move into a full-time shooting guard role this season. Freshman Joe See is expected to back up Payton at the point. J.S. Nash will add shooting off the bench, and it won't be a surprise if scrappy reserve Mike Cokely makes his way onto the floor often.

STRATEGY: Coach Ritchie McKay built his reputation on fast-paced, backcourt-dominated teams. Although he's not foolish enough to forget about Ricci, he may get closer to that style this season. The Beavers are deep enough in the backcourt that they may push the ball more, and without center Jason Heide inside, they will have a more fluid look offensively. It won't be a surprise if Ricci pops out to the 3-point line more than occasionally, no matter what his position. But it would be a surprise if the Beavers crack the top half of the conference and reach the postseason.

8. Oregon

National Rank: 104

FRONTCOURT: With Flo Hartenstein and Julius Hicks gone, Oregon's days of three big men and a cloud of dust may be over. So instead of throwing 15 fouls—and little offense—at opponents at center, the Ducks are hoping Chris Christoffersen consistently will play like the polished center he was at times last season. Oregon also lost slippery Bryan Bracey inside, but it hopes to get more scoring from skilled big man Jay Anderson. The Ducks won't be completely without physical play, either, thanks to Robert Johnson, who should provide rebounding and defensive punch, and Brian Helquist, who can score around the basket. Freshmen Ian Crosswhite and Matt Short are redshirt possibilities, while Mark Michaelis is something of a wild card: He's a big shooter who hasn't found the confidence yet to make a dent in the rotation. Small forward Luke Jackson is a good rebounder who can pose matchup problems.

BACKCOURT: Frederick Jones has teased Oregon fans for years with his explosiveness, shooting and on-the-ball defense. But though his numbers have improved every year, the elements are not always there at the same time. This is his last chance to break out. Like a typical freshman, Luke Ridnour tried too hard to make plays last season, but he grew into the point guard role and figures to own the position this year. James Davis is a shooter off the bench. Ben Lindquist isn't supremely talented, but he will find time because of his grit and intelligence.

STRATEGY: The Ducks will continue with a fast-paced offense that uses essentially three guards, while hoping that their big men can put up enough offense to distract defenders. Without a proven scorer inside, the onus falls on Jones more than ever to produce. Oregon may go as far as he goes, which probably won't be far enough to make the NCAA Tournament.

Ducks Data

Coach: Ernie Kent (68-49, 4 years; 158-129 overall, 10 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Greg Graham (4 years), Scott Duncan (1), Fred Litzenger (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 14-14. Pac-10:

5-13/16th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 66.

Last league title: 1945 (Pac-10 North).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Eugene, Ore.

Website: www.goducks.com

Home court: McArthur Court (9,087).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
55	C	Jay Anderson	6-9/220	So.	1.8	0.9	0.1	50.0	73.3	42.9
25	C	C. Christoffersen	7-2/265	Sr.	3.3	2.5	0.1	40.3	42.9	—
11	F	Ian Crosswhite	6-11/225	Fr.	Native of Sydney, Australia.					
1	G	James Davis	5-10/170	So.	3.9	0.6	0.7	30.6	75.0	31.7
40	C	Brian Helquist	6-9/285	Jr.	Transferred from Florida CC-Jacksonville.					
33	F	Luke Jackson	6-7/210	So.	7.8	4.1	2.0	42.4	74.0	36.0
3	F	Robert Johnson	6-8/235	Jr.	Transferred from Santa Rosa (Calif.) JC.					
20	G	Frederick Jones*	6-4/209	Sr.	14.8	5.6	3.4	47.2	80.6	30.6
34	G	Anthony Lever*	6-3/185	Sr.	9.9	2.0	2.1	38.6	79.4	35.4
24	G	Ben Lindquist	6-4/180	Sr.	3.5	1.1	1.0	40.3	85.0	38.1
50	F	Mark Michaelis	7-0/230	Sr.	1.2	0.7	0.1	75.0	72.7	—
13	G	Luke Ridnour*	6-2/165	So.	7.4	2.5	3.8	33.9	79.2	29.3
5	C	Matt Short	7-0/220	Fr.	True center with great potential.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Bryan Bracey*	6-7/210	18.6	7.1	1.0	49.3	78.8	42.7
C	Julius Hicks*	6-8/235	7.0	4.2	1.0	62.5	51.2	0.0
C	Flo Hartenstein	6-9/260	2.9	3.3	0.2	55.6	37.7	—

Schedule

D15	Northern Arizona	J12	Stanford	F9	at California
N15	Alabama State	D20	Arizona State	J19	at Oregon State
N16	West. Michigan	D22	Arizona	J24	at Washington
N17	Long Beach State	D27	Morris Brown	J26	at Wash. State
N24	Louisville	J4	at Arizona	J31	UCLA
N27	Massachusetts	J6	at Arizona State	F2	USC
D1	at Portland	J10	California	F7	at Stanford

9. Washington

National Rank: 118

FRONTCOURT: The Huskies are relying on big big man David Dixon to anchor the post, which isn't a good sign. But Dixon has melted off about 50 pounds since showing up two years ago at more than 325, and the team is confident he can do some damage now. Marlon Shelton is a question mark inside after suffering a torn ACL late last season, which means that athletic but raw freshman Jeffrey Day may be forced into action. Coach Bob Bender may start the season with 3-point threat Grant Leep at power forward, but freshman Mike Jensen is an aggressive, prototypical power forward who probably will take over before long. Small forward Doug Wrenn, a slasher and rebounder, had academic problems that kept him from a commitment to Washington out of high school. He went to a prep school, then on to Connecticut, which he left because of behavioral problems. Freshman Erroll Knight also will contribute at small forward.

BACKCOURT: Curtis Allen has established himself as one of the league's quickest point guards. The other half of the Huskies' backcourt tandem, C.J. Massingale, is a natural point guard who now is playing shooting guard full time. Charles Frederick, a gifted wide receiver who is attending Washington on a football scholarship, eventually will back up Allen at point guard. Until the football team completes its season, walk-on Will Conroy will fill in as a reserve at the point. Josh Barnard, a top junior college shooter last year, will be a backup at shooting guard, along with Knight.

STRATEGY: This season, the Huskies may have their most athletic team yet in Bender's nine seasons at Washington, but they still don't have a proven post threat and no viable inside-outside attack. They have played good defense at times and have stayed competitive in games, but that will be a challenge in a Pac-10 second division that generally is improved.

Huskies Data

Coach: Bob Bender (105-124, 8 years; 165-181 overall, 12 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Byron Boudreaux (6 years), Eric Hughes (8), Al Hairston (1).

2000-2001 record: 10-20. Pac-10:

4-14/19th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 152.

Last league title: 1985 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Seattle.

Website: www.gohuskies.com

Home court: Bank of America Arena (10,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
20	G	Curtis Allen*	6-0/170	So.	7.0	2.0	2.2	38.8	76.7	24.7
23	G	Josh Barnard	6-4/190	Jr.	Transferred from Tacoma (Wash.) CC.					
5	G	Will Conroy	6-0/170	Fr.	Turned down scholarship offers to walk on.					
4	F	Jeffrey Day	6-9/215	Fr.	Averaged 14.8 ppg as high school senior.					
50	C	David Dixon*	6-11/280	Sr.	4.7	3.2	0.3	57.4	36.7	—
	G	Charles Frederick	6-0/180	Fr.	Also was top 50 recruit in football.					
52	G	David Hudson	6-0/185	Fr.	Averaged 15 ppg as high school senior.					
42	F	Mike Jensen	6-8/210	Fr.	Finalist for McDonald's All-American Game.					
21	G	Erroll Knight	6-6/200	Fr.	Was Washington's Mr. Basketball last year.					
31	F	Grant Leep	6-7/225	Sr.	3.1	1.8	0.5	38.4	64.3	33.3
1	G	C.J. Massingale	6-3/200	So.	5.9	1.5	1.3	38.8	62.9	42.5
44	C	Marlon Shelton	6-10/270	Sr.	4.2	3.8	0.3	36.2	51.4	—
30	F	Anthony Washington	6-9/200	Fr.	High school teammate of Conroy's.					
24	F	Doug Wrenn	6-6/220	So.	Transferred from Connecticut.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Bryan Brown	6-4/230	5.5	1.8	2.9	34.9	48.4	32.0
F	Greg Clark	6-7/215	5.5	2.2	1.4	36.0	58.1	29.2
F	Thalo Green*	6-7/225	10.9	5.0	1.3	47.0	69.0	35.6
G	Michael Johnson*	6-4/190	8.9	2.7	2.1	40.5	61.6	29.1
F	Will Perkins*	6-8/200	12.8	7.2	1.6	47.8	56.1	0.0

Schedule

D11	Gonzaga	J12	Arizona	F9	at Arizona State
N15-18	Top of World Cl.	D20	UCLA	J17	at California
N24	Santa Clara	D27	USC	J19	at Stanford
N28	UNLV	D29	at Saint Louis	J24	Oregon
D1	at San Diego	J4	at UCLA	J26	Oregon State
D6	at Texas-El Paso	J6	at USC	J31	at Wash. State
D8	at N. Mexico St.	J10	Arizona State	F7	at Arizona

10. Washington State National Rank: 146

FRONTCOURT: Post play hasn't been the Cougars' strength in years. That won't change this season. But center J Locklier is steady if unspectacular, and power forward Milton Riley gained confidence as last season went on. The team also picked up a big man from Canada, Shaminder Gill, who may be in the rotation, especially if Framccio Little remains out. Little was slated to play a more natural small forward role this season, where he would put up better numbers, but he was declared academically ineligible for the fall and is a question mark for the spring.

BACKCOURT: If the football team reaches a bowl game, the basketball team probably won't have the services of its leading returning scorer, shooting guard Mike Bush, until after the Cougars open the Pac-10 basketball season. But at least Bush is under a football scholarship, allowing coach Paul Graham to use a basketball ride elsewhere. Bush, who is expected to be a contributor at wide receiver this year, is a tough, athletic player who can get to the bucket. Without Bush and Little, the Cougars likely will have to go with JC transfer Justin Lyman as a big wing and Jerry McNair at shooting guard. Both are good shooters, and Lyman, who was TCU-bound before academics sent him to junior college, should be the top newcomer. Marcus Moore is a big, scoring-oriented point guard. E.J. Harris and Nick Graham, the coach's son, will back Moore up.

STRATEGY: Moore and the Cougars' wings once again will have to carry the team, but the difference is that there is plenty of quickness and experience there. Winning five conference games last season was a mild surprise, and the team could win at least that many again. But the Cougars will have to keep their heads up early. They open league play with four consecutive games against the Los Angeles schools.

Cougars Data

Coach: Paul Graham (18-38, 2 years).

Assistant coaches: Randall Dickey (2 years), Gary Stewart (2), Chris Croft (2).

2000-2001 record: 12-16. Pac-10: 5-13/T6th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 171.

Last league title: 1941.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Pullman, Wash.

Website: www.wsucougars.com

Home court: Friel Court (12,058).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
5	G	Mike Bush*	6-6/195	Sr.	15.9	5.2	1.5	39.9	70.3	33.3
22	F	Shaminder Gill	6-8/225	Fr.	A native of Mission, British Columbia.					
10	G	Nick Graham	6-0/175	Jr.	0.6	0.4	0.4	33.3	—	25.0
0	G	E.J. Harris	6-1/163	So.	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	—	—
	G	Cedrick Hughey	6-6/195	Jr.	Averaged 13 ppg, 6 rpg at Westark CC.					
11	G/F	Thomas Kelati	6-6/185	Fr.	Plays both guard spots and small forward.					
2	F	Framccio Little*	6-4/207	Sr.	7.0	4.6	0.9	47.5	69.2	16.7
4	G/F	Justin Lyman	6-6/205	Jr.	Transferred from Blinn College (Texas).					
24	C	J Locklier*	6-10/235	Sr.	9.5	6.1	0.8	45.5	69.2	—
3	G	Jerry McNair	6-2/173	Jr.	9.4	1.7	0.8	46.7	58.1	39.6
1	G	Marcus Moore*	6-6/182	So.	10.4	3.6	3.6	37.6	75.4	29.9
23	F	Justin Murray	6-4/227	Sr.	0.9	0.1	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
25	F	Milton Riley*	6-9/197	Jr.	5.3	3.5	0.2	51.0	64.8	—
21	F	Pavel Stasiak	6-11/220	Jr.	Transferred from Cloud County (Kan.) CC.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	David Adams	6-2/185	Transferred to Wyoming.					
G	Cedric Clark	6-0/185	1.1	1.3	0.8	25.0	77.8	21.4
G	Kendall Minor	6-4/185	Transferred to Northern Arizona.					

Schedule

D10	at Texas	J12	Arizona State	F9	at Arizona
N20	Colorado State	D15	at Gonzaga	J17	at Stanford
N24	Prairie View	D22	UCLA	J19	at California
N27	at Montana	D29	USC	J24	Oregon State
D1	Ark.-Pine Bluff	J4	at USC	J26	Oregon
D4	Idaho	J6	at UCLA	J31	Washington
D7	Texas-Pan Amer.	J10	Arizona	F7	at Arizona State

Where the consensus top 50 high school players are headed

Rk.	Name	Pos.	City/High School	College/NBA
1.	Eddy Curry	C	South Holland, Ill./Thornwood	Chicago Bulls
2.	Kelvin Torbert	SG	Flint, Mich./Northwestern	Michigan State
3.	Dajuan Wagner	PG	Camden, N.J./Camden	Memphis
4.	Tyson Chandler	C	Compton, Calif./Dominguez	Chicago Bulls
5.	Ousmane Cisse	C	Montgomery, Ala./St. Jude	Denver Nuggets
6.	Kwame Brown	PF	Brunswick, Ga./Glynn Academy	Washington Wizards
7.	Julius Hodge	SG	Bronx, N.Y./St. Raymond's	NC State
8.	DeSagana Diop	C	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Aca.	Cleveland Cavaliers
9.	Jonathan Hargett	PG	Durham, N.C./Emmanuel	West Virginia
10.	David Lee	PF	St. Louis/Chaminade	Florida
11.	Rick Rickert	PF	Duluth, Minn./East	Minnesota
12.	Carlos Hurt	PG	Louisville, Ky./Moore	Louisville
13.	Jawad Williams	SF	Lakewood, Ohio/St. Edwards	North Carolina
14.	Maurice Williams	PG	Jackson, Miss./Murrah	Alabama
15.	Aaron Miles	PG	Portland, Ore./Jefferson	Kansas
16.	David Harrison	C	Nashville/Brentwood Academy	Colorado
17.	James White	SF	Chatham, Va./Hargrave	Florida
18.	Josh Childress	SG	Lakewood, Calif./Mayfair	Stanford
19.	Rashaad Carruth	SG	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Aca.	Kentucky
20.	Julian Sensley	PF	Oakdale, Conn./St. Thomas More	California
21.	Wayne Simien	PF	Leavenworth, Kan./Leavenworth	Kansas
22.	Cedric Bozeman	PG	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei	UCLA
23.	T.J. Ford	PG	Sugar Land, Texas/Willowridge	Texas
24.	Jackie Manuel	SG	West Palm Beach, Fla./Newman	North Carolina
25.	Robert Whaley	PF	Benton Harbor, Mich./Benton Harbor	TBD

Rk.	Name	Pos.	City/High School	College/NBA
26.	Jamal Sampson	C	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei	California
27.	Dijon Thompson	SF	Redondo Beach, Calif./Union	UCLA
28.	Anthony Richardson	SF	Raleigh, N.C./Leesville Road	Florida State
29.	Daniel Ewing	SG	Sugar Land, Tex./Willowridge	Duke
30.	Najeeb Echols	SF	Chicago/Whitney Young	Missouri
31.	Melvin Scott	SG	Baltimore/Southern	North Carolina
32.	Dennis Latimore	PF	Halstead, Kan./Halstead	Arizona
33.	Ben Gordon	SG	Mount Vernon, N.Y./Mount Vernon	Connecticut
34.	Elton Brown	PF	Newport News, Va./Warwick	Virginia
35.	Brandon Bender	C	Louisville, Ky./Ballard	Louisville
36.	Pierre Pierce	SG	Westmont, Ill./Westmont	Iowa
37.	JaQuan Hart	SF	Flint, Mich./Northern	Ohio State
38.	Andre Patterson	SF	Los Angeles/Washington Prep	UCLA
39.	Keith Jackson	SG	Cincinnati/Purcell Marian	Xavier
40.	Chris Thomas	PG	Indianapolis/Pike	Notre Dame
41.	Dommanic Ingerson	SG	Santa Barbara, Calif./Santa Barbara	Michigan
42.	Billy Edelin	PG	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Aca.	Syracuse
43.	Greg Tinch	SF	Albany, Ga./Westover	Louisville
44.	Alan Anderson	F	Minneapolis/De La Salle	Michigan State
45.	Travis Diener	PG	Fond du Lac, Wis./Goodrich	Marquette
46.	Josh Powell	PF	Riverdale, Ga./Riverdale	NC State
47.	Charles Frederick	PG	Boca Raton, Fla./Pope John Paul II	Washington
48.	Earnest Shelton	SG	Memphis, Tenn./White Station	Alabama
49.	Ed Nelson	PF	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas	Georgia Tech
50.	Chuck Hayes	F	Modesto, Calif./Modesto Christian	Kentucky

BIG TEN

Marc Hansen, *Des Moines Register*
Jeff Shelman, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

Predictions

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Illinois* | 7. Minnesota |
| 2. Iowa* | 8. Purdue |
| 3. Michigan State* | 9. Wisconsin |
| 4. Indiana* | 10. Penn State |
| 5. Ohio State* | 11. Northwestern |
| 6. Michigan* | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Frank Williams, Illinois	6-3	205	Jr.
G	Luke Recker, Iowa	6-6	210	Sr.
F	Reggie Evans, Iowa	6-8	245	Sr.
F	LaVell Blanchard, Michigan	6-7	205	Jr.
F	Jared Jeffries, Indiana	6-10	215	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Marcus Taylor, Michigan State	6-3	190	So.
G	Brian Brown, Ohio State	6-4	200	Sr.
G	Kelvin Torbert, Michigan State	6-4	220	Fr.
F	Bernard Robinson, Michigan	6-6	185	So.
F	Brian Cook, Illinois	6-10	240	Jr.

Player of the Year

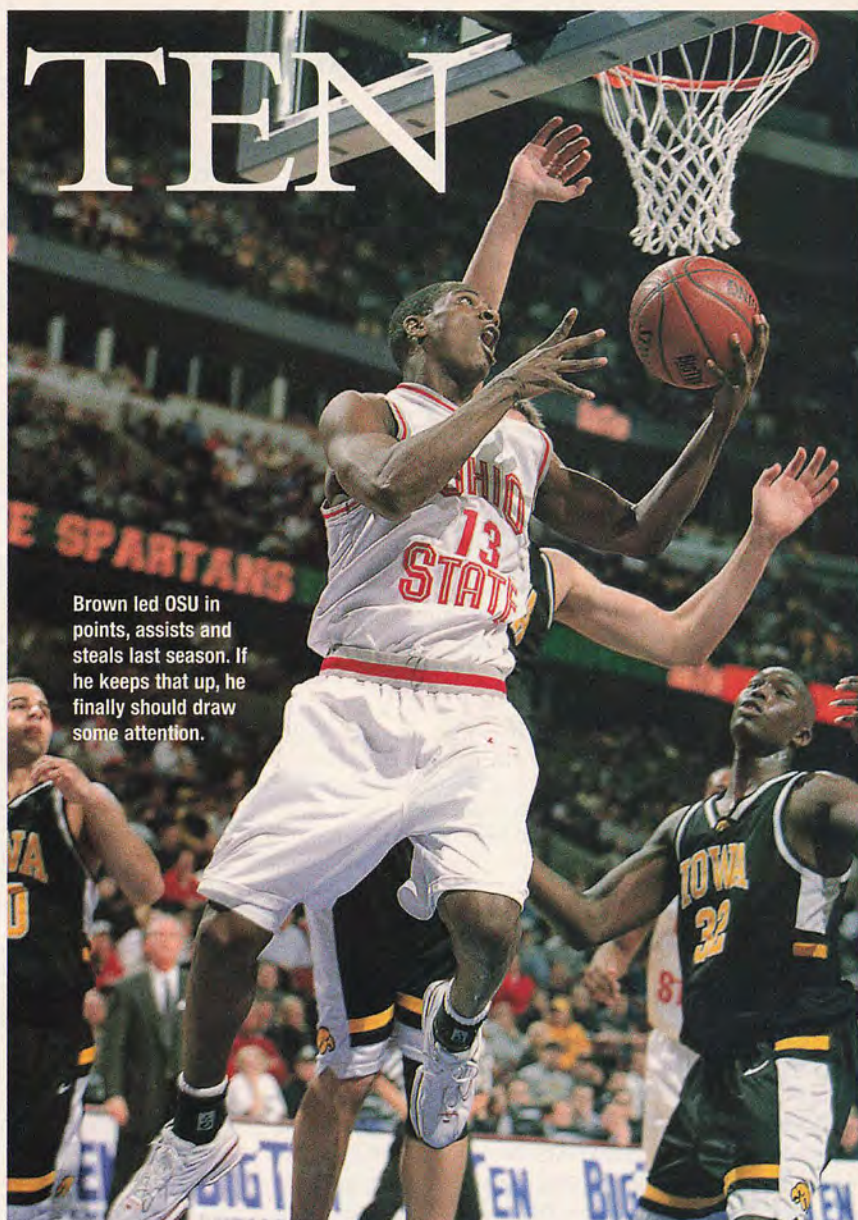
Frank Williams, Illinois

Newcomer of the Year

Kelvin Torbert, Michigan State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Luke Recker, Iowa
Best rebounder: Reggie Evans, Iowa
Best playmaker: Frank Williams, Illinois
Best defender: Dane Fife, Indiana
Best dunker: Bernard Robinson, Michigan
Best under 6-0: Brody Boyd, Iowa
Best over 6-10: Robert Archibald, Illinois
Most versatile: LaVell Blanchard, Michigan
Most flamboyant: Frank Williams, Illinois
Best NBA prospect: LaVell Blanchard, Michigan



Brown led OSU in points, assists and steals last season. If he keeps that up, he finally should draw some attention.

BY KYLE VELTROP

Michigan State owned the penthouse view in the Big Ten standings for so long you might think it bought that prime piece of real estate. Then Illinois moved in, tying the Spartans atop the league with a 13-3 record last season.

This year, the Illini should be ready to evict the Spartans.

Michigan State still has talent, and any team coached by Tom Izzo that has made three straight trips to the Final Four must be paid proper respect, but the early defections to the NBA of potential All-Americans Jason Richardson and Zach Randolph leave a floating question mark over East Lansing.

In Illinois, Frank Williams' decision to put off pro ball for another year has Illini fans thinking about more than a Big Ten title. An NCAA Tournament championship is definitely within reach.

Though Illinois' surpassing Michigan

State as the team to beat is the conference's major story line, several subplots are developing along the benches. Coaching turnover has become a Big Ten trademark, leaving the league in the process of shaping a new identity.

Illinois' Bill Self (second year), Iowa's Steve Alford (third) and Minnesota's Dan Monson (third) continue to put firm stamps on their programs. Another on-the-rise coach, ace recruiter Tommy Amaker, will try to wake up a sleeping Michigan program after leaving Seton Hall. The antithesis of Amaker, Division III coaching legend Bo Ryan, is taking over at Wisconsin, which opted for a break from the Dick Bennett/Brad Soderberg all-defense, all-the-time style.

There also is Mike Davis, who enters his second year at Indiana and the first without the interim label next to his name. Bob Knight's shadow should be further removed

from the Hoosiers program this season, giving Davis some breathing room.

ASCENDING: Minnesota. Monson did a terrific job coaxing 18 wins out of a team debilitated by scholarship limits and injuries last season. Now, he has a heralded incoming class headlined by Rick Rickert, a 6-10 skilled post man who went back on a commitment to Arizona to play the role of local hero for his state school. Monson inherited a program that was a mess. He is proving to be a quick cleaner-upper.

DESCENDING: Penn State. It was bad enough the Nittany Lions were expecting to lose senior standouts Joe Crispin, Gyasi Cline-Heard and Titus Ivory. Then Jon Crispin decided to transfer to UCLA with two years of eligibility left. There's not a whole lot to get excited about on the recruiting front, either. Hope the Nittany

Lions enjoyed that Sweet 16 trip.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Kirk Haston, Indiana. He never was fully appreciated nationally, but he ranked second in the league in scoring (19.0) and rebounding (8.7) average last season. Had Haston returned for his senior year, he would have teamed with Jared Jeffries to form a devastating 1-2 frontcourt punch and make Indiana a strong contender for the league title. Without him, the Hoosiers need George Leach to grow up fast.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Brian Brown, Ohio State. Big Ten coaches left Brown off their three all-league teams last season. That's not surprising because little about Brown's game stands out. It's his versatility that makes him invaluable. Brown led Ohio State in scoring, assists and steals and was second in rebounds as a junior. Brown's game, particularly his shooting, has improved markedly each year. If he makes a similar jump this season, Brown won't have to worry about being underrated any longer.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Cory Bradford, Illinois. Not just in the league, but in the nation. A career 37 percent shooter whose scoring average has declined for two straight seasons, Bradford regularly is hailed as an All-American candidate even though he might not be the best shooting guard on his own team. Last year, his scoring average dipped from 15.3 as a sophomore to 9.9 as a junior.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Gene Keady, Purdue. He is entering his 22nd year in West Lafayette. The league's 10 other coaches have been at their schools for an average of 2.3 years. College coaching is a changing world, and Keady must show he can keep up with the young guys. He has a knack for getting a lot out of a little, but Purdue missed the NCAA Tournament last year and will be hard-pressed to make it this season.

BEST BETS: Michigan State freshman Kelvin Torbert's fadeaway jumper will be compared with Michael Jordan's. ... Minnesota's Dusty Rychart will be the nation's most productive former walk-on. ... Iowa's Reggie Evans will post at least 25 double-doubles and will lead the nation in rebounding for the second straight year. ... Wisconsin will score more than it used to but still will be the most disciplined team in the league. ... Iowa's Luke Recker will be one of college basketball's best players when he is healthy, which won't be for every game again this season. ... Illinois' Brian Cook will continue to confound, playing wondrously skilled basketball for a big man one game, then disappearing the next. **TSN**

E-mail projects editor Kyle Veltrop at kveltrop@sportingnews.com.

RANKING THE RECRUITING

- 1. Michigan State:** Kelvin Torbert might be nation's No. 1 freshman. Alan Anderson adds needed depth.
- 2. Iowa:** Pierre Pierce, Marcellus Sommerville are promising. JC transfer PG Chauncey Leslie should start.
- 3. Minnesota:** Dan Monson reeled in five newcomers, including big fish Rick Rickert, the in-state hero.
- 4. Ohio State:** Brandon Fuss-Cheatham is the point guard of the future. Matt Sylvester is a good addition.
- 5. Illinois:** Depth comes from locals Roger Powell and Luther Head and JC transfer Blandon Ferguson.
- 6. Michigan:** Two of five recruits don't qualify academically, but Dommanic Ingerson is heading to Ann Arbor.
- 7. Purdue:** JC G Darmetris Kilgore is big and can score. Brandon McKnight will get backcourt minutes.
- 8. Indiana:** The headliner of Mike Davis' first official class is Donald Perry, a point guard from Louisiana.
- 9. Penn State:** Four frontcourt players could contribute; 6-11 Jan Jagla of Germany is most intriguing.
- 10. Wisconsin:** Neil Plank, Andreas Helmigk, Latrell Fleming are blue-collar players who must contribute.
- 11. Northwestern:** No new additions of note. This young team gets a little older for a change.

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG	Name	School	APG
LaVell Blanchard	Michigan	17.8	Tom Coverdale	Indiana	4.9
Reggie Evans	Iowa	15.1	Frank Williams	Illinois	4.4
Frank Williams	Illinois	14.9	Avery Queen	Michigan	4.3
Dusty Rychart	Minnesota	14.6	Brian Brown	Ohio State	4.1
Brian Brown	Ohio State	14.5	Marcus Taylor	Michigan State	3.6
Name	School	RPG	Name	School	FG%
Reggie Evans	Iowa	11.9	Chris Young	Michigan	64.0
LaVell Blanchard	Michigan	8.4	Brian Cook	Illinois	54.6
Dusty Rychart	Minnesota	8.0	Rodney Smith	Purdue	54.0
Jared Jeffries	Indiana	6.9	John Allison	Purdue	53.3
Brian Cook	Illinois	6.1	Dusty Rychart	Minnesota	50.4

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Michigan State*	13	3	28	5	16	0	12	5
Illinois*	13	13	27	8	12	0	15	8
Ohio State*	11	5	20	11	14	3	6	8
Indiana*	10	6	21	13	13	2	8	11
Wisconsin*	9	7	18	11	12	2	6	9
Iowa*	7	9	23	12	12	4	11	8
Penn State*	7	9	21	12	10	4	11	8
Purdue+	6	10	17	15	11	6	6	9
Minnesota+	5	11	18	14	12	6	6	8
Michigan	4	12	10	18	8	7	2	11
Northwestern	3	13	11	19	8	7	3	12

*Received NCAA bid. +Received NIT bid.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

TEAM STATS

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Illinois	35	45.4	70.5	32.4	40.0	15.8	7.7	4.2	15.0	77.9
Michigan State	33	48.9	71.9	32.2	42.5	17.6	6.4	4.0	13.7	77.4
Penn State	33	42.6	76.4	36.7	32.3	14.6	8.5	3.6	12.3	76.8
Purdue	32	44.5	72.5	38.0	33.6	15.1	7.1	4.6	13.8	74.7
Iowa	35	43.0	70.5	36.6	38.6	13.5	5.5	2.4	14.9	74.1
Minnesota	32	42.6	70.0	37.6	34.9	15.3	7.3	3.7	13.6	72.8
Ohio State	31	47.1	69.9	38.1	35.2	15.2	5.1	5.2	15.1	71.2
Indiana	34	45.3	63.6	36.2	37.3	15.2	6.7	5.2	14.6	70.8
Michigan	28	45.1	70.9	32.1	36.4	13.6	4.9	4.0	17.0	70.8
Northwestern	30	40.4	67.1	31.4	30.1	14.1	7.1	2.2	13.5	60.0
Wisconsin	29	42.6	70.2	36.5	30.0	12.3	5.9	2.3	12.7	59.4

Opponents' stats

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Wisconsin	29	41.1	70.6	32.6	29.6	9.9	4.8	3.1	12.7	56.6
Michigan State	33	39.3	70.5	38.3	27.1	12.8	5.9	2.8	13.1	61.8
Ohio State	31	40.3	68.5	36.6	30.7	12.4	6.1	3.7	14.7	63.6
Indiana	34	39.4	71.4	33.1	35.2	11.8	7.6	3.3	15.0	64.3
Northwestern	30	45.1	68.6	33.6	35.4	14.7	6.4	4.1	14.4	64.5
Illinois	35	38.6	68.8	32.4	33.0	11.4	6.1	3.4	16.0	65.9
Purdue	32	41.8	69.8	32.1	36.7	14.0	6.7	3.4	16.6	69.3
Iowa	35	43.5	69.0	32.1	31.9	14.2	6.3	4.1	13.9	70.5
Minnesota	32	43.3	74.0	31.9	37.6	14.2	6.5	4.5	15.8	72.2
Penn State	33	46.7	65.8	32.7	40.1	15.6	6.3	3.9	15.7	74.9
Michigan	28	44.9	73.1	38.3	33.6	15.7	7.9	2.6	12.0	78.2

1. Illinois

National Rank: 1
Schedule

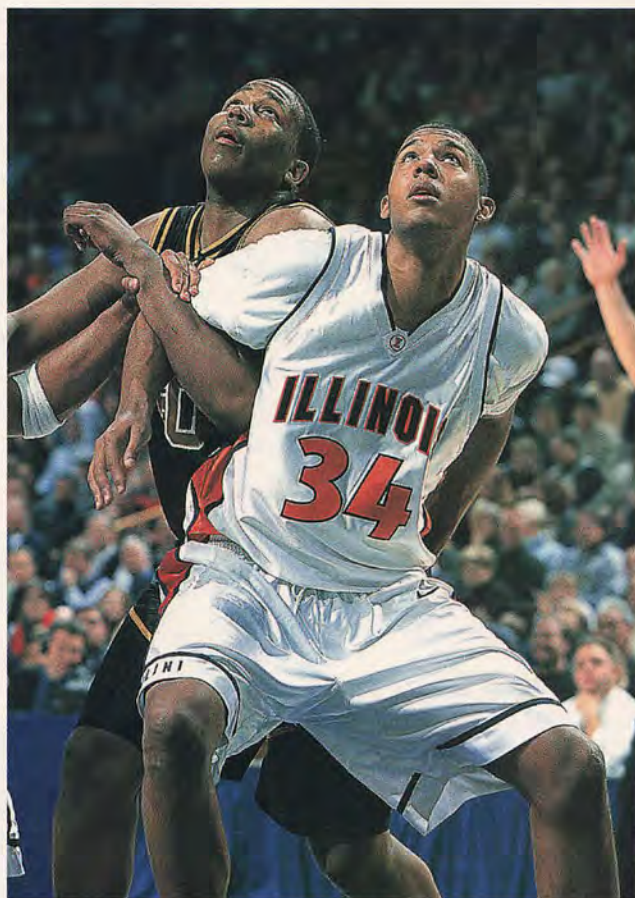
N16 Gonzaga
 N19 Eastern Illinois
 N22-24 Las Vegas Inv.
 N27 at Maryland
 D1 Texas A&M-C.C.
 D4 Arizona*
 D8 Arkansas**
 D16 Western Illinois
 D18 Illinois State
 D22 Missouri***
 D29 Loyola (Ill.)
 J2 Minnesota
 J5 at Wisconsin
 J9 at Purdue
 J12 Michigan
 J15 Iowa
 J23 Wisconsin
 J27 at Indiana
 J29 at Ohio State
 F3 Michigan State
 F7 at Michigan
 F9 Purdue
 F12 at Michigan State
 F16 at Seton Hall
 F20 Penn State
 F23 at Northwestern
 F26/27 Indiana (TBA)
 M2/3 at Minnesota (TBA)
 *at Phoenix
 **at Chicago
 ***at St. Louis

FRONTCOURT: It's not that the Illini won't miss Sergio McClain and Marcus Griffin. They will. That's almost 19 points and 12 rebounds per game out the Assembly Hall window. Few Big Ten players were more versatile and hard-nosed than McClain. And few were more physical in the paint than Griffin when healthy. Still, the Illini can repeat as Big Ten champs without them. There's enough talent left to move beyond last season's Elite Eight run in the NCAA Tournament. There's junior Brian Cook, a second-team all-league choice who was one of three Big Ten players to make the U.S. World Championship for Young Men team. Robert Archibald, a 6-11, 250-pound senior who scored 25 points against Arizona in last season's NCAA regional final, could turn into one of the league's better big men if he stays out of foul trouble. There's also feisty Lucas Johnson and Damir Krupalija, a versatile player who has fought through knee problems. Giving them a push will be freshman Roger Powell, who has a shot at moving into McClain's spot in the lineup.

BACKCOURT: It always helps having the Big Ten Player of the Year leading the way.

After deciding against going pro, point guard Frank Williams will be back for his junior season. He'll try to put a 3-for-15 outing in the regional final loss behind him. Joining Williams in the backcourt will be last fall's preseason player of the year, the all-but-forgotten Cory Bradford, who didn't live up to expectations but still was an important cog in the Illini machine. Explosive newcomers Luther Head and Blandon Ferguson will press for time at shooting guard. If the Illini have trouble scoring from 3-point range, Sean Harrington and Brett Melton will fill the void.

STRATEGY: Bill Self arrived in Illinois last season with a reputation for coaching tough defensive teams and giving his players a long leash offensively. His last high-flying squad at Tulsa averaged 80 points per game, which ranked 14th nationally. But if Self gave the Illini more freedom, you wouldn't know it by the numbers. Former coach Lon Kruger's last Illini team scored 75.3 points per game in league play. Self's first team averaged 75.8. The big difference came in field-goal percentage—Self's Illini shot 46 percent to Kruger's 43.3. Credit at least some of the improvement to Williams' improved decision-making and poise. He still phases in and out, but



Cook has shown flashes of greatness, and he was solid off the bench at the World Championships. But he must apply himself more consistently.

Self's decision to let Williams be himself, warts and all, worked. For whatever reason, the team seemed more unified under Self.

KEY TO THE SEASON: The Illini never have won a national title. And they've been to only one Final Four since 1952. In 1989, Lou Henson guided the school to its last national semifinal. The goal this season is another league title and a trip to the Georgia Dome. Anything less will be a disappointment. It will be up to Williams, with a big assist from Cook, to get the team there. If Williams improves as much this season as he did last season, Illinois will be hard to stop. And if Cook finally can reach down and summon the talent everyone says he has, watch out. —Marc Hansen

Fighting Illini Data

Coach: Bill Self (27-8, 1 year; 157-88 overall, 8 years; 7-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Norm Roberts (1 year), Billy Gillispie (1), Wayne McClain (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 27-8. Big Ten: 13-3/1st. Lost to Arizona in NCAA Midwest final.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 8.

Last league title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Champaign, Ill.

Website: www.fightingillini.com

Home court: Assembly Hall (16,833).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
21	F/C	Robert Archibald	Ballwin, Mo.	6-11/250	Sr.	7.2	4.5	0.6	58.8	73.8	—
13	G	Cory Bradford*	Memphis	6-3/200	Sr.	9.9	2.5	1.8	37.9	79.7	37.1
34	F	Brian Cook*	Lincoln, Ill.	6-10/240	Jr.	11.2	6.1	1.2	54.6	80.2	36.8
	F	Blandon Ferguson	Oakland, Calif.	6-3/220	Jr.	JC transfer from College of Southern Idaho.					
24	G	Sean Harrington	Bartlett, Ill.	6-3/185	Jr.	5.7	1.4	1.2	41.5	69.2	45.9
4	G	Luther Head	Chicago	6-3/170	Fr.	First to sign from Chicago public HS school since '94.					
25	G	Jerrance Howard	Peoria, Ill.	6-1/190	So.	0.4	0.4	0.4	26.7	50.0	0.0
31	G	Nick Huge	Charlotte	6-5/200	Jr.	Transferred from Appalachian State.					
22	F	Lucas Johnson	Des Plaines, Ill.	6-8/230	Sr.	5.0	3.3	1.7	46.2	74.7	34.6
33	F	Damir Krupalija	Rockford, Ill.	6-9/230	Sr.	4.8	3.9	0.7	59.7	67.9	46.7
00	G	Brett Melton	Mahomet, Ill.	6-5/195	So.	1.5	0.8	0.3	45.4	62.5	20.0
43	F	Roger Powell	Joliet, Ill.	6-6/215	Fr.	Could get some minutes early.					
45	C	Nick Smith	Valrico, Fla.	7-2/240	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					
42	F	Clayton Thomas	Elgin, Ill.	6-6/210	Jr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
30	G	Frank Williams*	Peoria, Ill.	6-3/205	Jr.	14.9	3.7	4.4	41.0	80.6	32.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Marcus Griffin*	Peoria, Ill.	6-9/235	11.3	6.0	1.0	53.3	59.2	0.0
F	Sergio McClain*	Peoria, Ill.	6-4/230	7.5	5.5	2.9	40.1	55.2	37.5

2. Iowa

National Rank: 12

Schedule

N13-21 Guardians Cla.
 N17 Louisiana Tech
 N27 Duke*
 N30-D1 Hawkeye Chall.
 D4 at Northern Iowa
 D8 at Iowa State
 D12 Drake
 D15 at Missouri
 D22 Kansas State
 D28 Mercer
 J2 Wisconsin
 J5 at Ohio State
 J9 Northwestern
 J13 Indiana
 J16 at Illinois
 J19 at Northwestern
 J22 Michigan State
 J26 at Purdue
 F2 Penn State
 F5 at Indiana
 F9 Minnesota
 F13 at Penn State
 F16 Ohio State
 F19 at Wisconsin
 F23 Michigan
 M2 at Michigan State
 *at Chicago

FRONTCOURT: Reggie Evans was a double-double machine last season after transferring from Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College. A second-team all-league choice and the nation's second-leading rebounder at 11.9 boards a game, Evans hit double digits in rebounding and scoring in his first 10 games. He finished with 22 double-doubles, topping off the season with 18 points and 13 rebounds in a second-round NCAA Tournament loss to Kentucky. Though Evans is a glass-eater, he still could use some polish, especially on offense and at the foul line, where he shot 63 percent. He'll be flanked by senior small forward Duez Henderson, a solid but unspectacular player, or by talented sophomore Glen Worley. Three newcomers will make it interesting. Coach Steve Alford lured two of Illinois' best high schoolers—prolific scorer Pierre Pierce and rugged swingman Marcellus Sommerville—across the state line. If Pierce can play shooting guard, Luke Recker might move to small forward. Last year, 6-11 Jared Reiner started at center, experiencing the typical ups and downs of a freshman season. But one of the surprises of the Iowa City Prime Time summer league was the play of willowy Erik Hansen, a mobile 6-11, 205-pounder from Texas. The plan was to redshirt Hansen,



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

Evans, who posted 22 double-doubles last season, is one of the best rebounders in the nation, but his offensive game could use some polish.

STRATEGY: Alford runs a motion offense, but last season it was hard to recognize sometimes amid the team's impatience. Recker will spend much of this season shooting behind screens. There will be more emphasis on getting the ball inside to Evans, which should help the outside game. If the rookies come through and Recker is healthy, Iowa will have a wealth of offensive options.

KEY TO THE SEASON: Recker was on his way to an all-Big Ten season before he cracked his kneecap against his old team, Indiana. The Hawkeyes somehow won the league tournament without him, but Iowa's regular-season conference record was 5-2 with Recker and 2-7 without him. Much depends on what happens at point guard with Leslie, but a healthy Recker could make the Hawkeyes Final Four contenders. —M.H.

but Alford might rethink that strategy.

BACKCOURT: Indian Hills (Iowa) junior college transfer Chauncey Leslie will try to replace third-team all-Big Ten point guard Dean Oliver. It won't be easy. Oliver was the third player in Big Ten history to record 1,500 points, 500 assists and 200 steals. Leslie is a jet, but can he replicate Oliver's considerable leadership qualities? Brody Boyd, a 5-11 sophomore, started the final 10 games at shooting guard last season and will try to play some point guard. Boyd was one of the heroes of the Hawkeyes' stunning Big Ten Tournament run. Recker, the team's scoring leader and its heart and soul, is supposed to reclaim the shooting guard role after sitting out the second half of the Big Ten season with a broken kneecap. He says he will be ready for the start of this season, but he spent the summer on the sidelines. Recker used the time off to hit the weight room and bulked up considerably. If he makes the move to small forward, Boyd, Pierce and senior Ryan Hogan will vie for time at shooting guard.

Hawkeyes Data

Coach: Steve Alford (37-28, 2 years; 193-105 overall, 10 years; 8-5 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Brian Jones (2 years), Greg Lansing (2), Rich Walker (12), Sam Alford (2).

2000-2001 record: 23-12. Big Ten: 7-9/T6th. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA East second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 31.

Last league title: 1979.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Iowa City, Iowa.

Website: www.hawkeyesports.com

Home court: Carver-Hawkeye Arena (15,500).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
11	G	Brody Boyd	Dugger, Ind.	5-11/155	So.	5.8	1.3	1.4	39.2	67.5	37.3
32	F	Reggie Evans*	Pensacola, Fla.	6-8/245	Sr.	15.1	11.9	1.6	47.5	63.0	100.0
34	C	Erik Hansen	Bedford, Texas	6-11/205	Fr.	Mobile player who can also play forward.					
23	F	Duez Henderson*	Detroit	6-7/200	Sr.	6.3	3.4	1.0	39.2	67.5	37.3
2	G	Ryan Hogan	Deerfield, Ill.	6-4/185	Sr.	7.2	2.6	1.8	34.8	74.2	36.2
1	G	Chauncey Leslie	Rochester, N.Y.	6-2/170	Jr.	Gives Hawkeyes plenty of speed at the point.					
3	G	Pierre Pierce	Westmont, Ill.	6-4/180	Fr.	Showed good scoring ability in high school.					
24	G/F	Luke Recker*	Auburn, Ind.	6-6/210	Sr.	18.1	3.9	2.7	43.9	85.6	43.1
5	C	Jared Reiner	Tripp, S.D.	6-11/255	So.	3.1	2.9	0.5	41.1	67.3	—
52	F	Cortney Scott	Jackson, Miss.	6-6/245	So.	2.5	2.1	0.4	48.5	63.6	100.0
15	F	M. Sommerville	Peoria, Ill.	6-6/210	Fr.	Has some ability to play near the basket.					
53	C	Sean Sonderlieter	Des Moines, Iowa	6-9/225	So.	2.0	1.9	0.1	54.8	65.0	—
25	F	Rod Thompson	Galesburg, Ill.	6-6/230	Sr.	1.8	1.2	0.1	39.5	61.5	27.8
4	F	Glen Worley*	Iowa City, Iowa	6-7/220	So.	7.5	3.8	0.7	44.9	72.2	25.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Dean Oliver*	Mason City, Iowa	5-11/175	14.9	2.8	4.8	39.2	76.9	36.3
G	Jason Smith	Bettendorf, Iowa	6-3/202	1.5	0.8	0.3	54.5	77.8	66.7

3. Michigan State

National Rank: 14

Schedule

N12 Detroit*
N28 Virginia**
N30-D1 Mich. State Tr.
D5 at Florida
D9 Nicholls State
D15 Arizona
D17 UNC Asheville
D19 Oakland
D22 Seton Hall
D29 Stanford***
J5 at Minnesota
J8 at Indiana
J12 Wisconsin
J16 Purdue
J19 at Penn State
J22 at Iowa
J30 Michigan
F3 at Illinois
F6 at Northwestern
F10 Ohio State
F12 Illinois
F16 at Purdue
F21 Minnesota
F24 Indiana
F26 at Ohio State
M2/3 Iowa (TBA)
*Preseason NIT
**at Richmond, Va.
***at Oakland, Calif.

FRONT COURT: During much of the Spartans' rise to becoming one of the elite programs in college basketball, coach Tom Izzo didn't have to deal with many of the problems that come with success. When the Spartans made three straight trips to the Final Four, they did it with seniors. Now Michigan State must rebuild after losing not only its seniors but two underclassmen who bolted for the NBA. When sophomore wing Jason Richardson and freshman center Zach Randolph turned pro, Michigan State's front line—which also lost seniors Andre Hutson and Mike Chappell—was gutted. The four combined to average 44 points and 22.1 rebounds per game for a team that led the nation in rebounding margin. Forward Aloysius Anagonye is the only returning starter up front. He'll have to play more than the 18.5 minutes he averaged last season. Adam Ballinger is back after playing a reserve role last season and must be a bigger factor, especially as a rebounder. Adam Wolfe and Jason Andreas also should get more minutes.

BACK COURT: Though he's only a sophomore, point guard Marcus Taylor might be the Spartans' most important returning player. As a freshman, Taylor, who missed part of the season with a thumb injury, was eased into the position as Charlie Bell split time between point guard and shooting guard. With Bell gone, Taylor must make good decisions and run the offense. He is one of the most talented sophomores in the country and was a member of the U.S. World Championship for Young Men team. The Spartans also lost David Thomas, the hero of the South Regional victory over Temple, and Brandon Smith. Freshman Kelvin Torbert, TSN's high school player of the year from Flint (Mich.) Northwestern, should start at shooting guard. Freshman swingman Alan Anderson also will get immediate playing time. Former walk-on Mat Ishbia and freshman Chris Hill will be in the mix, too.

STRATEGY: Izzo is nothing if not predictable. As has been the case in previous seasons, this team will rebound, play defense and play hard. Those were the trademarks of the 2000 national champs and the 1999 and 2001 teams that advanced to the Final Four. Still, these Spartans will be inexperienced and thin. The team has just one senior (a reserve), and Izzo has just eight scholarship players. Offensively, Michigan State will be a more perimeter-based team



PATRICK MURPHY-RACEY FOR TSN

Taylor not only must run the Spartans' offense, he must provide some of it because the frontcourt is not as deep or proven as in past seasons.

than it was last season—because of the talents of Taylor and Torbert, but also because Anagonye and Ballinger haven't proved they can score at the Big Ten level.

KEY TO THE SEASON: Can the young backcourt deliver? Torbert is a tremendous talent, but there is a huge difference between high school basketball and the Big Ten. Taylor is the most heralded player to come out of Lansing since Magic Johnson, but his play in the national semifinal against Arizona showed he still has things to learn. Despite the youth, however, Michigan State will be one of the Big Ten's top teams. —Jeff Shelman

Spartans Data

Coach: Tom Izzo (148-53, 6 years; 16-3 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 2000).

Assistant coaches: Brian Gregory (2 years), Mike Garland (5), Mark Montgomery (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 28-5. Big Ten: 13-3/T1st. Lost to Arizona in NCAA semifinals.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 3.

Last league title: 2001 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: East Lansing, Mich.

Website: www.msuspartans.com

Home court: Breslin Center (14,759).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
25	F	Aloysius Anagonye*	Southfield, Mich.	6-8/255	Jr.	4.7	3.1	0.7	62.4	71.4	—
15	G/F	Alan Anderson	Minneapolis	6-6/230	Fr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
44	C	Jason Andreas	Sugar Creek, Ohio	6-10/240	So.	0.5	1.0	0.1	45.5	50.0	—
55	F	Adam Ballinger	Bluffton, Ind.	6-9/245	Jr.	1.9	1.6	0.2	46.5	72.7	0.0
30	G	Tim Bograkovs	Flint, Mich.	6-2/180	Fr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	G	Chris Hill	Indianapolis	6-3/180	Fr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
11	G	Mat Ishbia	Birmingham, Mich.	5-10/155	Sr.	0.3	0.4	0.1	25.0	50.0	0.0
1	G	Marcus Taylor	Lansing, Mich.	6-3/190	So.	7.4	1.3	3.6	39.6	74.4	27.1
23	G	Kelvin Torbert	Flint, Mich.	6-4/220	Fr.	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	F	Adam Wolfe	Wasterville, Ohio	6-9/215	So.	1.7	1.7	0.1	27.3	87.5	16.7

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Charlie Bell*	Flint, Mich.	6-3/200	13.5	4.7	5.1	40.2	77.0	34.2
G/F	Mike Chappell	Southfield, Mich.	6-9/215	4.7	1.9	0.7	44.3	75.7	31.1
F	Andre Hutson*	Trotwood, Ohio	6-8/240	13.8	7.6	1.9	62.2	72.5	—
C	Zach Randolph	Marion, Ind.	6-9/270	10.8	6.7	1.0	58.7	63.5	0.0
G/F	Jason Richardson*	Saginaw, Mich.	6-6/220	14.7	5.9	2.2	50.3	68.9	40.2
G/F	David Thomas*	Brampton, Ont.	6-7/205	5.4	4.7	1.9	49.3	90.3	16.7

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

4. Indiana

National Rank: 33

FRONTCOURT: If second-year coach Mike Davis had to lose a starter, he wouldn't have chosen his best player, No. 2 Big Ten scorer Kirk Haston, who jumped to the NBA after his junior season. With Haston, the Hoosiers would have been title contenders. Still, this is a tall and talented frontcourt. Jared Jeffries is 6-10, Jeff Newton 6-9. Jeffries is a first-team all-conference selection waiting to happen. Newton, a nice shot blocker, is athletic but inconsistent. George Leach, a 6-11 sophomore who was a highly touted recruit, has been a disappointment. After sitting out a year, he averaged 6.8 minutes a game last season. Freshman Sean Kline and senior Jarrad Odle also will fight for playing time. Odle could have a chance to start.

BACKCOURT: If all goes as planned, freshman point guard Donald Perry will push incumbent Tom Coverdale to shooting guard and shooting guard Dane Fife to small forward. This isn't a dynamic group offensively, but Coverdale finished second in the league in assists, and Fife was a good defender last year. A.J. Moye has been unspectacular. Kyle Hornsby, who made 42.6 percent of his 3-pointers last season, can score, but he might be the exception. It's little wonder the team is counting on Perry's quick development.

STRATEGY: Bob Knight is at Texas Tech, and so is the motion offense. The Hoosiers still can hurry up and down the court when the mood strikes, but the team scored 7.5 more points a game in league play in Knight's last year than it did last season. Believe it or not, Davis has Indiana playing better defense. Last season, the Hoosiers gave up 62.9 points a game. In 1999-2000, they allowed 68.4. Whatever the numbers, Indiana still has a penchant for bowing out early in the NCAAAs. With Haston, the Hoosiers would be trying to run down Illinois at the top of the conference. Without him, pencil them in for third or fourth. —M.H.

Hoosiers Data

Coach: Mike Davis (21-13, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: John Treloar (4 years), Ben McDonald (1st year), Jim Thomas (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 21-13. Big Ten: 10-6/4th. Lost to Kent State in NCAA

West first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 39.

Last league title: 1993.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1985.

Site: Bloomington, Ind.

Website: www.athletics.indiana.edu

Home court: Assembly Hall (17,484).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
3	G	Tom Coverdale*	6-2/200	Jr.	10.7	3.4	4.8	45.4	66.3	35.6
11	G	Dane Fife*	6-4/200	Sr.	5.1	1.8	3.2	37.4	62.9	30.6
32	G/F	Kyle Hornsby	6-5/205	Jr.	6.9	2.0	1.0	43.2	71.0	42.6
1	F	Jared Jeffries*	6-10/215	So.	13.8	6.9	2.4	44.2	62.0	24.5
		F Sean Kline	6-8/210	Fr.	In-state recruit could get some minutes.					
5	F/C	George Leach	6-11/220	So.	1.8	1.5	0.2	37.5	47.8	—
2	G	A.J. Moye	6-3/215	So.	3.3	2.4	0.4	46.6	73.7	44.4
50	F	Jeff Newton*	6-9/210	Jr.	6.1	4.8	1.2	51.7	52.9	—
43	F	Jarrad Odle	6-8/220	Sr.	3.3	2.8	0.4	48.4	58.8	44.4
		G Donald Perry	6-2/170	Fr.	Could end up starting at the point.					
33	F	Mike Roberts	6-9/210	So.	1.7	1.3	0.1	41.7	46.7	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Kirk Haston*	6-10/230	19.0	8.7	1.2	46.9	68.7	37.7
G	Andre Owens	6-2/210	Transferred to Houston.					

Schedule

N18	at Charlotte	D22	Kentucky*	J19	at Ohio State	F13	Wisconsin
N21-24	Gr. Alaska Shoot.	D28-29	Hoosier Classic	J23	at Penn State	F17	at Michigan
N28	at North Carolina	J2	at Northwestern	J27	Illinois	F20	Ohio State
D1	at So. Illinois	J5	Penn State	F2	Purdue	F24	at Michigan State
D4	Notre Dame	J8	Michigan State	F5	Iowa	F26/27	at Illinois (TBA)
D8	Ball State	J13	at Iowa	F9	Louisville	M2	Northwestern
							*at Indianapolis

5. Ohio State

National Rank: 43

FRONTCOURT: Who will replace center Ken Johnson? The past two years, there wasn't a player in the Big Ten who could change a game like Johnson, the Big Ten's all-time leader in blocked shots. He erased some of the defensive mistakes made by the team's perimeter players and made opponents think twice about driving into the lane. Will Dudley and Velimir Radinovic are the favorites to replace Johnson. Radinovic has the height (7-0), but he averaged just 2.6 points per game as a freshman. Dudley, a senior, is more experienced and more physical. Matt Marinchick redshirted last season and will be part of a likely three-man rotation. Zach Williams returns after starting every game at power forward last season. Freshmen Terence Dials and Matt Sylvester, who has the ability to play facing the basket, should also see action.

BACKCOURT: Brent Darby, Brian Brown, Boban Savovic and Sean Connolly return, but that doesn't mean things will stay the same. Heralded freshman Brandon Fuss-Cheatham will compete for the starting point guard position. If the lefthanded Fuss-Cheatham starts, Brown can slide to shooting guard, a position where he is more comfortable. Regardless, the Buckeyes, who struggled with ballhandling last season, should be deeper.

STRATEGY: The team will be much more guard-oriented this season and often will play three perimeter players. With Darby, Brown, Savovic and Connolly, coach Jim O'Brien can send in 3-point shooters in waves. This Ohio State team will be much more similar to the group that advanced to the 1999 Final Four because the Buckeyes' offense will revolve around guards penetrating and kicking out to a shooter at the 3-point line. Questions remain about rebounding and interior defense, but Ohio State should score enough to reach the NCAA Tournament. —J.S.

Buckeyes Data

Coach: Jim O'Brien (78-49, 4 years; 313-266 overall, 19 years; 10-6 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Paul Biancardi (4 years), Dave Spiller (4), Bruce Parkhill (1).
2000-2001 record: 20-11. Big Ten:

11-5/3rd. Lost to Utah State in NCAA East first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 82.

Last league title: 2000 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Columbus, Ohio.

Website: www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com

Home court: Value City Arena (19,200).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
13	G	Brian Brown*	6-4/200	Sr.	14.5	4.4	4.1	44.6	71.0	40.4
2	G	B. Fuss-Cheatham	6-1/190	Fr.	Helped H.S. win district title three times.					
3	G	Sean Connolly	6-5/210	Jr.	7.6	3.0	2.0	41.2	84.0	41.7
4	G	Brent Darby*	6-1/195	Jr.	9.6	2.5	2.3	41.1	76.6	35.1
34	F/C	Terence Dials	6-9/240	Fr.	Will be in the frontcourt mix.					
43	F	Will Dudley	6-8/230	Sr.	4.9	2.1	0.5	53.3	65.5	—
23	G	Ryan Hefflin	5-10/180	Fr.	0.6	0.3	0.2	20.0	66.7	50.0
54	C	Matt Marinchick	6-10/240	Jr.	Redshirted last season.					
44	F	Tim Martin	6-6/240	Sr.	2.6	3.0	0.7	68.1	42.5	—
14	C	Velimir Radinovic	7-0/230	So.	2.6	1.4	0.3	51.7	64.5	—
21	G	Boban Savovic*	6-5/240	Sr.	8.9	3.8	3.5	43.9	73.9	39.0
40	F	Matt Sylvester	6-7/200	Fr.	Ohio co-Player of Year at Moeller High.					
32	F	Clark Williams	6-6/195	Fr.	May not be in rotation right away.					
33	F	Zach Williams*	6-7/230	So.	6.6	3.8	0.6	50.3	65.5	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Ken Johnson*	6-11/235	12.5	7.3	0.8	57.8	71.1	—
F	Cobe Ocojolic	6-8/210	Transferred.					

Schedule

N18	Winthrop	D22	at Louisville	J19	Indiana	F16	at Iowa
N20	Albany	D29	UNC Greensboro	J24	Michigan	F20	at Indiana
N27	NC State	J2	at Purdue	J26	at Minnesota	F23	Purdue
D2	UNC Wilmington	J5	Iowa	J29	Illinois	F26	Michigan State
D9	IUPUI-Indianapolis	J9	at Massachusetts	F2	Northwestern	M2/3	at Michigan (TBA)
D12	Santa Clara	J12	at Northwestern	F6	at Wisconsin		
		J16	Penn State	F10	at Michigan State		

6. Michigan

National Rank: 47

FRONTCOURT: If there's an area of strength for a team that won just one of its final 10 games last season, this is it. Junior LaVell Blanchard was Michigan's No. 1 offensive option when he averaged a team-high 17.8 points last season, and that won't change. Swingman Bernard Robinson returns for his sophomore season after averaging 14.4 points. Freshman wing Chuck Bailey should get minutes off the bench. But the biggest question for first-year coach Tommy Amaker is whether the Wolverines will be able to rebound in the physical Big Ten. Chris Young and Josh Moore, who went to Pete Newell's Big Man Camp over the summer, will get most of the minutes at center. They have a history of struggling with foul trouble.

BACKCOURT: The Wolverines faltered in the halfcourt game a year ago—they were last in the Big Ten in assist-to-turnover ratio—but have the potential to be better as point guard Avery Queen returns for his sophomore season. Freshman Dommanic Ingerson, who was among the top 75 recruits in the country on some lists, should move into the shooting guard position. Senior Leon Jones and junior Gavin Groninger will provide depth.

STRATEGY: Amaker will try to get the Wolverines to do two things they didn't a year ago: play defense and play together. Amaker, who arrived after a chaos-filled 2000-01 season at Seton Hall, will ask the Wolverines to play mainly man-to-man defense and run a more balanced motion offense. Execution in the halfcourt game is crucial because Michigan was prone to bad shot selection and poor decisions last season. Amaker is known as a good recruiter, but the team still lacks talent. A second-division finish in the Big Ten is realistic, but with a fairly soft non-conference schedule, the Wolverines have a decent shot at reaching the NCAA Tournament. —J.S.

Wolverines Data

Coach: Tommy Amaker (first year; 68-55 overall, 4 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Charles Ramsey (1st year), Chuck Swenson (1st year), Billy Schmidt (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 10-18. Big Ten:

4-12/10th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 40.
Last league title: 1986.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Ann Arbor, Mich.
Website: www.mgoblue.com
Home court: Crisler Arena (13,562).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
52	F	Rotolu Adebisi	6-5/210	Sr.	0.3	0.4	0.0	20.0	—	0.0
32	F	Chuck Bailey	6-7/195	Fr.	Could contribute off the bench.					
3	G	Marcus Bennett	6-2/185	Fr.	Averaged 23 ppg, 7 rpg, 6.1 spg as senior.					
30	F	LaVell Blanchard*	6-7/205	Jr.	17.8	8.4	1.8	44.2	78.8	78.8
4	F	Colin Dill	6-7/225	So.	1.1	0.4	0.0	50.0	—	—
10	F	Herb Gibson	6-5/205	Sr.	0.7	0.4	0.0	100.0	30.0	—
12	G	Mike Gottfredson	5-11/175	Sr.	0.2	0.6	0.5	16.7	—	33.3
23	G	Gavin Groninger	6-5/190	Jr.	5.6	1.6	1.5	32.1	79.2	31.7
11	G/F	Dommanic Ingerson	6-4/185	Fr.	Finalist for McDonald's All-American game.					
0	G	Leon Jones	6-4/195	Sr.	2.7	1.5	0.6	27.3	61.4	15.4
34	C	Josh Moore	7-2/305	So.	4.4	2.7	0.2	54.6	24.3	—
1	G	Avery Queen*	5-7/150	So.	5.8	2.3	4.3	64.9	43.8	27.5
21	F/G	Bernard Robinson*	6-6/185	So.	14.4	4.9	2.3	46.7	80.2	34.6
45	F/C	Chris Young*	6-9/220	Sr.	8.6	4.9	0.4	64.0	74.1	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Josh Asselin*	6-11/230	9.6	6.0	1.0	55.1	80.2	—
G	Maurice Searight	6-2/205	Dismissed from team.					

Schedule

D22	Eastern Michigan	J24	at Ohio State	F17	Indiana
N16	Oakland	D29	San Francisco*	J26	Vermont
N20	Fairfield	J2	at Penn State	J30	at Michigan State
N23	at West. Michigan	J5	Purdue	F2	Wisconsin
N28	at Bowling Green	J9	at Minnesota	F7	Illinois
D1	Boston College	J12	at Illinois	F9	Penn State
D4	IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	J16	Northwestern	F11	at Colorado State
D8	Duke	J19	Minnesota	F13	at Purdue

Golden Gophers Data

Coach: Dan Monson (30-30, 2 years; 82-47 overall, 4 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Mike Peterson (2 years), Bill Walker (2), Art Prevost (2).
2000-2001 record: 18-14. Big Ten: 5-11/9th. Lost to Tulsa in NIT first

round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 113.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Minneapolis.
Website: www.gophersports.com
Home court: Williams Arena (14,625).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
41	F	Michael Bauer*	6-8/205	So.	11.4	4.8	1.5	43.2	72.0	41.5
21	F	Travarus Bennett	6-7/205	Sr.	4.5	4.2	0.9	40.2	69.0	35.1
12	G	Kevin Burleson	6-3/190	Jr.	6.3	1.7	2.5	37.8	66.0	38.0
31	F	Steve Esselink	6-6/191	So.	Transferred from Augustana (S.D.).					
15	G	Kerwin Fleming	6-3/180	Sr.	6.8	1.5	1.0	34.7	69.7	37.1
42	C	Jeff Hagen	6-11/250	So.	1.9	1.2	0.3	48.6	56.0	0.0
11	G	Maurice Hargrow	6-4/175	Fr.	Athletic, quick swingman.					
40	F/C	Jerry Holman	6-10/218	Jr.	A good leaper with long arms.					
30	G/F	Justin Lorang	6-5/190	Sr.	1.1	0.6	0.1	22.2	75.0	25.0
1	F	Rick Rickert	6-10/202	Fr.	Can play inside and outside.					
3	G	Aaron Robinson	5-9/160	Fr.	Could excel with on-the-ball defense.					
45	F	Dusty Rychart*	6-7/210	Sr.	14.6	7.7	1.5	50.4	83.2	29.4
34	G/F	Shane Schilling*	6-6/200	Jr.	8.4	2.8	1.6	40.0	81.6	38.8

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	J. Blair-Bickerstaff*	6-6/190	10.9	6.1	4.0	52.7	64.0	31.6
G	Terrance Simmons*	6-3/185	14.3	2.9	3.9	41.2	69.9	39.1
C	Ryan Wildenborg	6-11/260	Transferred to Wyoming.					

Schedule

D10	Oregon	J16	at Wisconsin	F21	at Michigan State
N17	Mercer	D13	Md.-East. Shore	J19	at Michigan
N21	UNC Asheville	D22	Nebraska	J26	Ohio State
N24	East. Washington	D30	at Texas Tech	J30	Penn State
N27	at Wake Forest	J2	at Illinois	F2	Indiana
D1	Texas-Pan Am	J5	Michigan State	F9	at Iowa
D4	UNC Wilmington	J9	Michigan	F13	at Northwestern
D7	at Georgia	J12	at Purdue	F16	Wisconsin

7. Minnesota

National Rank: 65

FRONTCOURT: After a season in which the Gophers were small and thin up front, third-year coach Dan Monson will have depth and versatility. Dusty Rychart, the team's most productive player the past two seasons, returns. So does sophomore Michael Bauer, who has recovered from a broken arm. But the optimism surrounding the program comes from the arrival of junior college transfer Jerry Holman and freshman Rick Rickert, a highly recruited McDonald's All-American from Duluth, Minn., who committed to Arizona before changing his mind and staying home. He can play facing the basket and likely will spend time at small forward and power forward. Holman gives the Gophers a shot-blocking presence they haven't had since Joel Przybilla left. Wing Travarus Bennett also will be in the rotation. Center Jeff Hagen, who moved into the starting lineup at the end of last season, is expected to be redshirted.

BACKCOURT: Point guard is the biggest concern for Minnesota after the graduation of Terrance Simmons. Kevin Burleson, who backed up both guard spots last season, will get the first look at the point, but Kerwin Fleming could see action there, too. Shane Schilling returns at shooting guard, but he will have to work to keep his job. Fleming and Steve Esselink, who sat out last season after transferring from Division II Augustana (S.D.), will challenge Schilling. Freshmen Aaron Robinson and Maurice Hargrow also will get playing time.

STRATEGY: Monson, who has done a great job rebuilding the program, will have more options than he has had since arriving in Minneapolis. The Gophers will be able to go big or to go small and run. Monson's biggest tasks will be making sure his players get along and getting some of them to accept smaller roles than in the past. If that happens, a trip to the NCAA Tournament is realistic. —J.S.

8. Purdue

National Rank: 69

FRONTCOURT: Rodney Smith is one of the Big Ten's most underrated players. And John Allison isn't far behind. Though they combined for 24.1 points and 10.1 rebounds per game last season, neither showed up on the media's or the coaches' three all-Big Ten teams. But here's how important the two interior players were: The Boilermakers were 13-6 and headed toward their ninth straight NCAA Tournament bid when the two went down with similar ankle injuries. Purdue lost seven of its last eight and settled for the NIT. If the two are healthy, the team will have a good shot at the NAAs. Brett Buscher, an active sophomore, started in place of Smith after the injury. With Adam Wetzel transferring, Buscher will get more playing time, but he'll remain in a backup role, thanks to junior college transfer Darmetris Kilgore.

BACKCOURT: Quirky, brainy Carson Cunningham is gone, leaving the Boilermakers with a hole at point guard that sophomore Austin Parkinson will do his best to fill. If he can't, it could be point guard by committee. None of the other guards averaged as many as two assists per game. Hard-working combo guard Kenneth Lowe, who started all but one of the Boilermakers' 32 games last season, might be out for the year after offseason shoulder surgery. That means Maynard Lewis will get more minutes. Joe Marshall and Willie Deane also will play significant roles.

STRATEGY: This is a typical Gene Keady team. Few stars, lots of capable bodies. Nobody thinks much of Purdue's title chances, especially after its eighth-place finish, its lowest since 1966. Expect the Boilermakers to guard the perimeter again, to rank among the leaders in turnover margin and to overachieve. They will use the same formula that has helped Keady win more than 800 games at the high school, junior college, major college and international levels. Don't be surprised if Purdue is back in the NAAs. —M.H.

Boilermakers Data

Coach: Gene Keady (456-206, 21 years; 495-226 overall, 23 years; 18-17 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Jay Price (8 years), Cuonzo Martin (1), Todd Foster (2).
2000-2001 record: 17-15. Big Ten:

6-10/8th. Lost to Alabama in NIT quarterfinals.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 62.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: West Lafayette, Ind.

Website: www.purduesports.com

Home court: Mackey Arena (14,123).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
54	C	John Allison*	6-10/242	Sr.	10.2	5.3	1.2	53.3	67.4	—
3	F	Brett Buscher	6-8/239	So.	4.7	3.8	0.4	43.9	66.0	—
32	F	Matt Carroll	6-8/221	Fr.	Known for hitting offensive, defensive glass.					
0	G	Willie Deane	6-1/196	Jr.	8.6	3.1	1.7	42.7	70.4	37.7
4	G	Andrew Ford	6-2/188	Fr.	Redshirted last year.					
34	C	Kevin Garrity	6-11/253	So.	0.8	1.3	0.3	34.6	31.3	—
33	F	Darmetris Kilgore	6-5/202	Jr.	JC transfer brings slashing ability.					
12	G	Maynard Lewis*	6-1/187	Sr.	9.9	3.5	1.1	40.5	77.9	39.8
20	G	Kenneth Lowe*	6-3/199	Jr.	11.3	2.9	1.8	47.9	86.5	40.7
15	G	Joe Marshall	6-2/200	So.	6.9	2.9	1.1	40.1	65.0	37.7
10	G	Brandon McKnight	6-2/172	Fr.	Runner-up to Indiana's Mr. Basketball.					
11	G	Austin Parkinson	6-0/183	So.	1.4	1.1	1.1	40.0	60.9	18.8
31	F	Rodney Smith*	6-6/231	Sr.	13.9	4.8	1.0	54.0	62.5	44.3

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Carson Cunningham*	6-1/188	9.8	1.8	4.4	37.2	86.0	33.9
F/C	Adam Wetzel	6-9/245	Transferred to Nebraska-Omaha.					

Schedule

D15	Dayton*	J16	at Michigan State	F16	Michigan State
N16	at Valparaiso	D17	Illinois-Chicago	J19	at Wisconsin
N21	Radford	D20-22	Las Vegas Cl.	J23	Northwestern
N24	Stanford*	D29	Robert Morris	J26	Iowa
N27	Butler	J2	Ohio State	J31	at Indiana
N30-D1	Boilermaker Inv.	J5	at Michigan	F6	at Penn State
D5	Xavier	J9	Illinois	F9	at Illinois
D8	Arizona+	J12	Minnesota	F13	Michigan

Badgers Data

Coach: Bo Ryan (1st year).
Assistant coaches: Tony Bennett (1 year), Rob Jeter (1st year), Greg Gard (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 18-11. Big Ten: 9-7/T5th. Lost to Georgia State in NCAA West first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 16.

Last league title: 1947.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Madison, Wis.

Website: www.uwbadgers.com

Home court: Kohl Center (17,142).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
2	G	Travon Davis	5-10/180	Sr.	2.2	1.6	1.3	32.6	56.7	0.0
5	G	Latrell Fleming	6-3/190	Fr.	Part of athletic group of backcourt recruits.					
34	G	Devin Harris	6-3/185	Fr.	Faces rough baptism around the league.					
21	F	Andreas Helmigk	6-9/230	Fr.	Could get some minutes as a backup.					
30	F/C	Dave Mader	6-11/240	Jr.	1.1	1.6	0.2	33.3	75.0	—
24	G	Freddie Owens	6-2/180	So.	1.0	0.2	0.3	41.7	58.3	25.0
20	G	Kirk Penney*	6-5/205	Jr.	11.2	3.0	1.1	44.1	71.4	43.2
25	G/F	Neil Plank	6-5/200	Fr.	Should be in the backcourt mix.					
42	F	Julian Swartz	6-6/215	So.	Not likely to be a factor.					
54	F	Mike Wilkinson	6-8/205	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					
40	F	Charlie Wills	6-8/230	Sr.	4.2	3.0	0.7	40.2	74.4	53.8

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Roy Boone*	6-3/195	12.8	4.1	2.0	41.2	74.6	33.1
G	Ricky Bower	6-4/185	Transferred to Brigham Young.					
G	Mike Kelley*	6-3/190	5.3	2.3	3.1	45.3	73.4	29.7
F	Andy Kowske*	6-8/230	7.0	5.4	0.4	54.5	57.0	33.3
F	Maurice Linton	6-8/210	5.6	3.4	1.0	40.4	79.2	29.2
F	Mark Vershaw*	6-9/235	8.6	4.1	2.9	38.9	72.3	17.1

Schedule

D15	Furman	J16	Minnesota	F13	at Indiana
N17	at UNLV	D22	Marquette	J19	Purdue
N23-25	Big Island Inv.	D27	at Wis-Milwaukee	J23	at Illinois
N28	at Georgia Tech	D29	Tennessee	J26	Penn State
D1	Wis-Green Bay	J2	at Iowa	J30	at Northwestern
D3	Temple	J5	Illinois	F2	at Michigan
D8	at Ohio	J9	at Penn State	F6	Ohio State
D10	at Xavier	J12	at Michigan State	F9	Northwestern

9. Wisconsin

National Rank: 94

FRONTCOURT: Charlie Wills, who started nine games last season, is one of the few familiar names in what will be a revamped frontcourt. Mark Vershaw and Andy Kowske—the Badgers' regular starting forwards last season—are gone. First-year coach Bo Ryan has a number of candidates to replace them. Dave Mader, the only Badger taller than 6-9, was a bit player last year but should get more action this season. Redshirt freshman Mike Wilkinson and freshman Andreas Helmigk also will be in the mix.

BACKCOURT: Gunner Kirk Penney, Wisconsin's second-leading scorer last season, is the team's most proven scorer after hitting 43.2 percent of his 3-pointers. Senior Travon Davis is the likely candidate to replace Mike Kelley at the point after serving as his primary backup. Freshmen guards Neil Plank, Devin Harris and Latrell Fleming bring the athleticism the team lacked under former coach Dick Bennett and interim coach Brad Soderberg, but they're playing in a league that isn't kind to freshman guards.

STRATEGY: Ryan, a former Badgers assistant who was a successful head coach at Division III Wisconsin-Platteville before moving to Wisconsin-Milwaukee, isn't Bennett or Soderberg. But it's not as if Wisconsin suddenly will be scoring 100 points per game. Ryan, like Bennett, has built his programs on defense. His 1997 Platteville team held opponents to a national record 47.5 points per game. On offense, expect things to be a little looser than they were under Bennett. Taking good shots will be the goal, rather than working the shot clock down on every possession. Ryan embraces the 3-pointer more than Bennett, and the Badgers will run more of a motion offense than in the past. The result will be increased scoring—reaching 70 points will no longer be unheard of—but an inexperienced lineup could move Wisconsin into the Big Ten's second division. —J.S.

10. Penn State

National Rank: 110

FRONTCOURT: Tyler Smith, a 6-8 senior who will have to provide more than the 7.6 points and 4.5 rebounds a game he did last season, is the only returning frontcourt starter. Smith has a nice outside shot for a big man but was only a role player in the Nittany Lions' Sweet 16 tourney run. With projected starter Marcus Banta having left school because of academics, coach Jerry Dunn will have no choice but to play Ndu Egekeze. Egekeze and Smith likely will be joined by Jamaal Tate, who contributed marginally as a freshman. Dunn's recruiting class includes three forwards and a center. Unless Jan Jagla, a 6-11 recruit from Germany, or one of the other newcomers, can surprise, the Big Ten's weakest rebounding team could get even weaker.

BACKCOURT: The only thing more depleted than the frontcourt is the backcourt. The Crispin brothers, Jon and Joe, are gone. Joe ran out of eligibility, and Jon ran out of patience, transferring to UCLA. Sophomore Sharif Chambliss and junior Brandon Watkins hit some big baskets last season and will be counted on heavily. Still, the two spent too much time behind the Crispins, giving an indication of how consistent they might be. Chambliss and Watkins were considered good recruiting catches when Dunn signed them. It's time for them to prove it.

STRATEGY: Penn State is in for a massive rebuilding job. After guiding the Nittany Lions to a 21-win season—with NCAA Tournament victories over North Carolina and Providence—Dunn signed a five-year contract extension. The security will come in handy with five of last season's top seven players gone. Life will be easier without the bickering Crispins. But their hard noses and soft shooting touches will be hard to replace. Figuring out who to play will be Dunn's first task. If Dunn can get this team to the NIT, he deserves another five-year extension. —M.H.

Nittany Lions Data

Coach: Jerry Dunn (103-79, 6 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Christian Appleman (5 years), Mike Boyd (5), Rick Callahan (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 21-12. Big Ten: 7-9/T6th. Lost to Temple in NCAA South

semifinal.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 46.

Last league title: 1991.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: State College, Pa.

Website: www.gopsusports.com

Home court: Bryce Jordan Center (15,261).

Roster		*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%	
21	F	Stephan Bekale	6-9/230	Jr.	0.5	0.5	0.0	66.7	66.7	—	
13	G	Sharif Chambliss	6-1/175	So.	1.3	0.5	0.1	30.0	71.4	31.8	
44	F	Ndu Egekeze	6-7/220	So.	1.4	0.7	0.2	60.0	25.0	—	
24	C	Kevin Fellows	6-10/245	Fr.	All-state player in Idaho.						
22	F	Jan Jagla	6-11/210	Fr.	A contribution from him would help a lot.						
45	F	Jason McDougald	6-9/200	Fr.	Competed in high jump as H.S. senior in N.C.						
35	F	Tyler Smith*	6-8/230	Sr.	7.6	4.5	1.2	51.4	68.8	38.9	
1	G/F	Jamaal Tate	6-5/200	So.	2.4	1.2	0.3	40.0	66.7	29.4	
41	F	Daren Tielsch	6-7/215	Fr.	Considered one of top H.S. players in Pa.						
34	F	B.J. Vossekuil	6-9/200	Jr.	1.0	0.8	0.2	50.0	63.6	40.0	
10	G	Brandon Watkins	6-0/165	Jr.	3.2	0.9	1.1	38.6	65.0	42.9	

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F/C	Marcus Banta	6-10/230	Left school.					
F	Gyasi Cline-Heard*	6-8/230	16.0	8.2	1.8	50.1	73.5	33.3
G	Joe Crispin*	6-0/185	19.5	3.6	3.3	37.3	87.3	35.6
G	Jon Crispin*	6-2/195	Transferred to UCLA.					
G	Titus Ivory*	6-4/210	15.8	4.4	4.5	44.0	89.9	39.5

Schedule

N18	Yale	D8	at Pittsburgh	J16	at Ohio State	F9	at Michigan
N21	Lafayette	D22	Bucknell	J19	Michigan State	F13	Iowa
N24	at Boston College	D28-29	Golden Bear Cl.	J23	Indiana	F16	Northwestern
N28	Clemson	J2	Michigan	J30	at Wisconsin	F20	at Illinois
D1	at Temple	J5	at Indiana	F2	at Iowa	F23	Minnesota
D5	Lehigh	J9	Wisconsin	F6	Purdue	M2	at Purdue

Wildcats Data

Coach: Bill Carmody (11-19, 1 year; 103-44 overall, 5 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Paul Lee (1 year), Mitch Henderson (1), Craig Robinson (1).

2000-2001 record: 11-19. Big Ten: 3-13/11th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 214.

Last league title: 1933.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Evanston, Ill.

Website: www.nusports.com

Home court: Welsh-Ryan Arena (8,117).

Roster		*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%	
3	F	Winston Blake*	6-5/190	Jr.	11.9	3.2	1.9	38.3	66.0	37.6	
30	F	Jason Burke	6-6/190	Jr.	3.0	1.5	0.8	45.1	69.4	41.9	
32	G	Collier Drayton*	6-2/185	Sr.	5.4	3.7	3.4	39.2	44.9	33.3	
33	C	Tavaras Hardy*	6-8/225	Sr.	10.7	5.7	2.2	46.2	70.4	9.1	
10	G	Langston Hughes	5-11/195	Jr.	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	100.0	0.0	
55	C	Aaron Jennings	6-11/210	Jr.	5.4	2.4	1.0	40.7	73.1	28.1	
23	G	Drew Long	6-1/180	So.	0.8	0.2	0.3	40.0	—	25.0	
44	G	Ed McCants	6-2/180	So.	4.1	2.1	0.4	32.8	50.0	27.2	
43	F	Patrick Towne	6-5/220	So.	0.4	1.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	
25	G	Jitim Young*	6-2/185	So.	8.8	3.8	1.9	40.4	67.9	23.3	

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Ben Johnson*	6-2/180	Transferred to Minnesota.					

Schedule

N14-16	BCA Invitational	D22	vs. Fordham*	J23	at Purdue	F16	at Penn State
N24	Chicago State	D28-29	ASU Holiday Cl.	J26	at Buffalo	F20	Purdue
N28	Florida State	J2	Indiana	J30	Wisconsin	F23	Illinois
D8	Kansas State	J9	at Iowa	F2	at Ohio State	F27	at Minnesota
D15	Florida A&M	J12	Ohio State	F6	Michigan State	M2	at Indiana
D17	Liberty	J16	at Michigan	F9	at Wisconsin	*at New York	
		J19	Iowa	F13	Minnesota		

11. Northwestern

National Rank: 125

FRONTCOURT: There still are no starters over 6-8. Still no rebounders who finished among the top 10 in Big Ten play. Still no scorers in the top 20. Northwestern was 10th in the league in rebounding and blocked shots last season. What the Wildcats do have this season, for the first time in three years, are seniors. One is three-year starter Tavaras Hardy, who should benefit from playing on the Big Ten's foreign touring team in August. Hardy, who has started 84 straight games, averaged 11.5 points and 5.7 rebounds in conference play last season. The only other big man in this perimeter-oriented group is 6-11, 210-pound Aaron Jennings, who isn't a banger.

BACKCOURT: Sophomore Jitim Young is a legitimate talent and all-around player who started every game as a freshman. He probably was the best Wildcat in the last month of the season, and that's a good sign. He might be the team's best hope for postseason honors. Senior Collier Drayton lends stability and experience at point guard. He was among the league leaders in turnover margin last year. Ben Johnson, the team's second-leading scorer last season, has transferred to his home state of Minnesota. The possible return of 3-point specialist Sean Wink after a two-year absence could help make up for the loss.

STRATEGY: The Wildcats still are smaller and less talented than most Big Ten teams, so they must be smarter and more disciplined than everyone else. That's the basis of Carmody's back-cutting, ball-control offense. It seems to be working. Last season, the Wildcats went from zero Big Ten wins under Kevin O'Neill to three under Carmody. They have gone from having no seniors the last two years to having two. For once, lack of experience won't be a problem. But the Wildcats enter the season with only nine scholarship players, so digging out of 11th place will be difficult. —M.H.

BIG 12

Blair Kerkhoff, *Kansas City Star*
Jerome Solomon, *Houston Chronicle*

Predictions

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kansas* | 8. Baylor |
| 2. Missouri* | 9. Texas Tech |
| 3. Oklahoma State* | 10. Kansas State |
| 4. Texas* | 11. Texas A&M |
| 5. Oklahoma* | 12. Nebraska |
| 6. Iowa State* | *NCAA tourney pick |
| 7. Colorado | |

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Kirk Hinrich, Kansas	6-4	180	Jr.
G	Maurice Baker, Oklahoma State	6-1	175	Sr.
F	Drew Gooden, Kansas	6-10	230	Jr.
F	Kareem Rush, Missouri	6-6	212	Jr.
F	Chris Owens, Texas	6-8	245	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Bernard King, Texas A&M	6-5	188	Jr.
G	Hollis Price, Oklahoma	6-1	165	Jr.
F	Nick Collison, Kansas	6-10	250	Jr.
F	D.J. Harrison, Colorado	6-7	215	Sr.
F	Fredrik Jonzen, Oklahoma State	6-10	230	Sr.

Player of the Year

Kareem Rush, Missouri

Newcomer of the Year

T.J. Ford, G, Texas

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Cary Cochran, Nebraska
Best rebounder: Chris Owens, Texas
Best playmaker: Kirk Hinrich, Kansas
Best defender: Andre Williams, Oklahoma State
Best dunker: Rickey Paulding, Missouri
Best under 6-0: Victor Williams, Oklahoma State
Best 7-0 or taller: David Harrison, Colorado
Most versatile: Maurice Baker, Oklahoma State
Most flamboyant: Clarence Gilbert, Missouri
Best NBA prospect: Kareem Rush, Missouri

BY KYLE VELTROP

The 2000-01 Big 12 season was marked by unfathomable tragedy off the court (the fatal crash of a plane carrying 10 members of Oklahoma State's traveling party) and disappointing play on it when things mattered most (four of its six NCAA Tournament teams lost in the first round; no team advanced past the Sweet 16).

The dominating theme for this season, though, is rebounding, as last season's trying times should give way to a bounce-back mentality. The reasons for optimism:

■ **Power at the top.** Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma State and Texas all have the personnel and experience to be top 10 teams and do significant damage in the postseason. The Jayhawks and Tigers already are being mentioned as strong Final Four contenders.

■ **Staying in school.** Players fleeing college early became a national trend, but Maurice Evans of Texas was the only Big 12 underclassman to declare. Drew Gooden of Kansas and Kareem Rush of Missouri were

Do-it-all Baker was second in the Big 12 in scoring, fourth in steals, ninth in assists and 16th in rebounds.

the two biggest names to stick around.

■ **Big news from the not-so-big boys.** Lubbock, Texas, of all places, can't get enough of hoops. Say what you will about Bob Knight, but the man stirs excitement. Optimism also is prevalent at Baylor and at Colorado, thanks to the signing of hyped recruit David Harrison. The league's perennial have-nots are making noise.

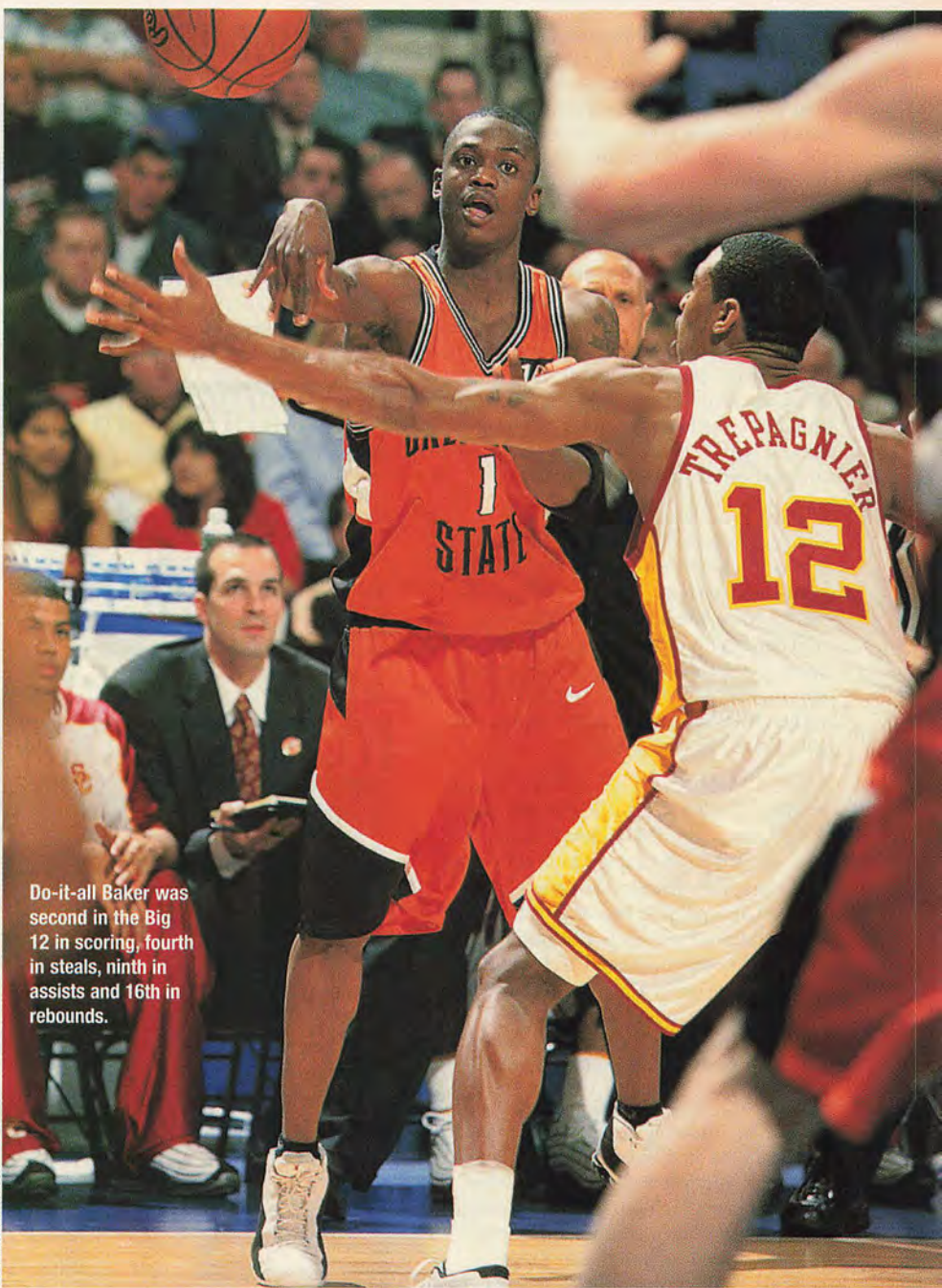
Thanks to Knight, the Big 12 will gain a great deal of attention, but this is a league that, after a season on wobbly legs, appears equipped to stand tall on its own.

ASCENDING: Missouri. Quin Snyder has a deep, big, athletic team that will be led by Rush, perhaps the best pure scorer in college

basketball. The best ball is yet to come from sophomores Wesley Stokes, Arthur Johnson, Rickey Paulding and Travon Bryant, and Snyder has another fine recruiting haul heading to Columbia. If he finds a rotation that works and keeps everyone happy, watch out.

DESCENDING: Iowa State. The Cyclones have been a smashing success two years running, but the lights are dimming a bit. Any team coached by Larry Eustachy must be paid proper respect, but he lacks the talent and experience to make another big national dent. Four of the team's five double-figure scorers departed.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Jamaal Tinsley, Iowa State. Statistics never



JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

did Tinsley justice; all you need to know is the Cyclones were 57-11 the last two seasons with Tinsley at the point. He was simply the best ballhandler and most creative passer around. As great a college player as Marcus Fizer was, the Cyclones might have a tougher time replacing Tinsley.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: D.J. Harrison, Colorado. His name has become well known in college basketball, but only because he was the main enticement in luring blue-chip brother David to Boulder. Don't sell big brother short, though. He averaged 15.2 points last season and scored 38 in one game. Harrison has improved his shot markedly from his junior college days, and his size (6-7) and versatility make him a tough assignment for any defender.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Clarence Gilbert, Missouri. Yes, he averaged 16.5 points and team-best 3.5 assists, but his poor shot selection (36.4 percent from the field) and personal volatility often make him as dangerous to his team as the opponent. Snyder's greatest challenge will be keeping this gunner under control because Gilbert has shown he's not the most coachable kid on the team bus.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Melvin Watkins, Texas A&M. In 1998, A&M opened Reed Arena and hired Watkins, two moves that were supposed to spark an improvement in the program. Instead, the Aggies have gone 30-55, and their league wins have dropped from 5 to 4 to 3 on Watkins' watch. With Texas being Texas and Tech and Baylor making noise under Knight and Dave Bliss, respectively, the Aggies are in danger of falling off the state's hoops radar. You know what that generally means for the coach.

BEST BETS: Despite being 9 inches shorter, 6-1 shooting guard Maurice Baker of Oklahoma State will outrebound his teammate and fellow all-league candidate Fredrik Jonzen. ... Texas Tech officials will wonder what they were thinking by not including a code of conduct in Knight's contract. And network officials will wonder what they were thinking by scheduling so many Red Raiders games for TV. ... Kansas won't regret leaning heavily on a three-guard lineup. What it loses in size and rebounding will be more than made up for in what it gains in quickness, athleticism and ballhandling. The key to making it all work will be Aaron Miles, who won't be the best freshman in the league but will be the most important. ... Texas A&M guard Bernard King will average 20 points a game, though few will notice. ... Iowa State's Jake Sullivan, with his range extending out to 30 feet, will regularly make a mockery of the college 3-point line.

TSN

E-mail projects editor Kyle Veltrop at kveltrop@sportingnews.com.

RANKING THE RECRUITING

- 1. Kansas:** Just what it needs: inside ferocity (Wayne Simien) and another ballhandler (Aaron Miles).
- 2. Missouri:** Jeffrey Ferguson, Uche Okafor help inside. Duane John, Najeeb Echols bring versatility.
- 3. Oklahoma:** JC transfers Ebi Ere, Quannas White and Jason Detrick are ready to help now.
- 4. Colorado:** Some say 7-0 David Harrison is CU's top recruit ever. James "Mookie" Wright is a keeper.
- 5. Texas:** Mega recruit PG T.J. Ford, a wizard with the ball, fills gaping hole for rough-and-tough Texas.
- 6. Baylor:** Dave Bliss gets three top Texans and New Mexico transfers R.T. Guinn and Kevin Henry.
- 7. Texas Tech:** Eralm Kujo isn't coming, but a cache of JC players is, including Pawel Storzynski, Will Chavis.
- 8. Kansas State:** Jim Wooldridge continues makeover, adding three good JC players, namely Pervis Pasco.
- 9. Iowa State:** The best of this four-player class is JC transfer Tommie King, a 6-7 wing.
- 10. Nebraska:** Light on big names but big on numbers and versatility, with a newcomer at each position.
- 11. Oklahoma State:** JC transfers Cheyne Gadson and Aaron Hill bulk up a thin backcourt.
- 12. Texas A&M:** Melvin Watkins says in-state signee Daryl Mason was the best prep guard he saw last season.

RETURNING LEADERS

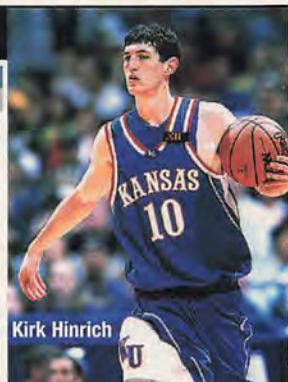
Name	School	PPG
Kareem Rush	Missouri	21.1
Maurice Baker	Oklahoma State	19.8
Bernard King	Texas A&M	18.0
Clarence Gilbert	Missouri	16.5
Drew Gooden	Kansas	15.8
Name	School	RPG
Drew Gooden	Kansas	8.4
Arthur Johnson	Missouri	7.8
Andre Williams	Oklahoma State	7.7
Travis Reynolds	Kansas State	7.7
Stephane Pelle	Colorado	7.5

Name	School	APG
Kirk Hinrich	Kansas	6.9
Bernard King	Texas A&M	4.8
Hollis Price	Oklahoma	4.7
Maurice Baker	Oklahoma State	4.2
Larry Reid	Kansas State	3.8
Name	School	FG%
Nick Collison	Kansas	59.7
Maurice Baker	Oklahoma State	52.5
Fredrik Jonzen	Oklahoma State	52.0
Drew Gooden	Kansas	51.6
Stephane Pelle	Colorado	47.9

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Iowa State*	13	3	25	6	16	0	9	6
Kansas*	12	4	26	7	13	1	13	6
Oklahoma*	12	4	26	7	13	1	13	6
Texas*	12	4	25	9	16	1	9	8
Oklahoma State*	10	6	20	10	11	1	9	9
Missouri*	9	7	20	13	13	1	7	12
Nebraska	7	9	14	16	8	6	6	10
Baylor+	6	10	19	12	14	3	5	9
Colorado	5	11	15	15	8	7	7	8
Kansas State	4	12	11	18	8	6	3	12
Texas A&M	3	13	10	20	7	7	3	13
Texas Tech	3	13	9	19	6	8	3	11

*Received NCAA bid. +Received NIT bid.



Kirk Hinrich

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

TEAM STATS

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Kansas	33	50.2	65.9	39.4	42.6	19.4	6.6	5.2	16.1	82.0
Colorado	30	46.0	71.4	35.9	39.5	17.2	7.6	3.2	16.4	80.6
Iowa State	31	47.4	72.8	41.7	39.6	13.8	6.1	3.3	15.1	79.1
Missouri	33	42.0	70.1	38.0	38.2	12.7	7.8	4.0	15.1	75.5
Oklahoma	33	44.6	74.0	38.1	35.9	13.5	8.5	2.8	12.7	74.4
Baylor	31	44.9	67.3	29.8	36.1	15.3	8.8	2.4	14.4	71.3
Nebraska	30	48.7	59.7	38.3	35.8	15.3	7.9	3.8	17.6	71.1
Oklahoma State	30	46.4	63.3	32.8	38.0	13.5	8.0	3.8	16.9	71.0
Texas	34	41.2	65.0	34.3	39.6	12.2	7.9	5.6	14.8	70.5
Texas A&M	30	42.3	67.1	29.7	37.1	13.2	6.0	2.4	16.2	69.4
Texas Tech	28	41.6	67.5	28.2	36.4	14.6	7.5	3.7	15.9	68.5
Kansas State	29	41.2	65.1	32.8	37.9	12.0	5.4	3.2	15.7	63.6

Opponents' stats

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Oklahoma	33	43.1	65.0	33.9	33.2	11.4	5.7	2.8	17.1	64.3
Oklahoma State	30	40.2	66.9	33.7	34.6	11.9	7.3	3.1	17.1	64.5
Baylor	31	40.3	65.4	33.1	36.5	12.0	5.5	2.7	16.6	64.5
Texas	34	38.9	65.0	29.5	39.0	10.6	7.6	2.8	15.9	65.0
Kansas State	29	40.5	67.7	35.5	36.2	14.4	7.7	3.6	13.8	68.0
Iowa State	31	41.7	69.1	33.8	30.8	10.5	6.5	4.5	14.3	68.2
Kansas	33	37.8	68.0	33.4	35.0	13.2	8.4	2.8	15.0	69.3
Nebraska	30	43.1	70.4	33.9	32.7	12.8	8.1	4.0	14.2	69.5
Missouri	33	43.2	68.3	32.1	38.8	13.7	6.7	3.1	15.5	72.8
Texas Tech	28	45.1	69.3	34.8	38.8	15.9	7.9	2.8	16.1	73.9
Colorado	30	42.6	70.6	34.7	34.7	15.2	7.4	3.3	16.3	75.0
Texas A&M	30	46.0	68.2	35.9	36.1	18.4	7.7	3.2	14.7	76.6

1. Kansas

National Rank: 7

Schedule

N19-21 Maui Invitational
 N28 Pittsburg State
 D1 at Arizona
 D4 Wake Forest
 D8 UMKC
 D12 at Princeton
 D15 South Carolina St.
 D22 at North Dakota
 D29 Tulsa
 J2 Valparaiso
 J5 at Colorado
 J9 Nebraska
 J12 at UCLA
 J15 at Oklahoma State
 J19 Oklahoma
 J23 at Iowa State
 J26 at Texas A&M
 J28 Missouri
 F2 Colorado
 F4 at Kansas State
 F9 Texas Tech
 F11 at Texas
 F16 Baylor
 F18 Iowa State
 F24 at Nebraska
 F27 Kansas State
 M3 at Missouri

FRONTCOURT: Drew Gooden and Nick Collison are junior forwards with different strengths, and for the first time in three seasons they'll be in the starting lineup together throughout the season. Although they ranked among team leaders in minutes played as freshmen and sophomores, one usually served as the top sub. Last season, Gooden led the Jayhawks in scoring (15.8 points) and rebounding (8.4), and his tendency to sleep-walk through possessions all but disappeared. Consistency never has been an issue for Collison, who shot 59.7 percent from the floor last season. Powerful freshman Wayne Simien, a 6-8 McDonald's All-American from nearby Leavenworth, Kan., had shoulder surgery over the summer and might be less than 100 percent at the start of practice but should factor into the rotation quickly. Center Jeff Carey has been solid off the bench during his KU career.

BACKCOURT: Kirk Hinrich is a complete guard, good enough at the point to finish seventh in the nation in assists (6.9) and a good enough shooter to set a school record

for 3-point percentage (50.5). Where Hinrich plays may depend on the development of freshmen Aaron Miles and Keith Langford. Miles, a point guard, and shooting guard Michael Lee, a fellow KU signee, led their high school team to a 28-0 record as juniors. Langford, a 6-4 lefty swingman, arrived with fewer accolades but had a solid summer. If he continues to thrive, he could start at small forward, which would leave Hinrich to run the point. Jeff Boschee has started for three years and is the team's most unabashed perimeter shooter. Moving to shooting guard full time last season allowed him to cut down on turnovers. Brett Ballard is coming off a season in which he stepped up as a reserve point guard. Bryant Nash is the team's only true small forward, and he is more of a defensive stopper.

STRATEGY: Pencil in Gooden, Collison and Hinrich as starters. Who joins them will determine the way the Jayhawks play. Typically, coach Roy Williams finds his starting lineup early and stays with it. The Jayhawks outrebounded opponents by an average of seven boards last season. A big lineup could let Kansas keep that kind of advantage. But Williams is leaning toward small. "It looks like we'll have more of a three-guard lineup than in the past," he



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Collison, who has the league's top field-goal percentage among returning players, can play forward but likely will spend most of his time at center.

says. If that holds true, Kansas will rank among the nation's leaders in 3-point shooting.

KEY TO THE SEASON: It doesn't change for Kansas, which prides itself on winning with both a transition and halfcourt game. One area that has slipped over the past few seasons and will be emphasized is getting to the free-throw line. Kansas went to the line only three more times than opponents in Big 12 games last season. The perimeter defense also must improve. In four league losses, opponents shot 50 percent from behind the arc. Also, Kansas must improve its press. If it shores up those holes, the team once again should be battling for first. —Blair Kerkhoff

Jayhawks Data

Coach: Roy Williams (355-89, 13 years; 25-12 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Neil Dougherty (6 years), Joe Holladay (8), Ben Miller (2).
2000-2001 record: 26-7. Big 12: 12-4/T2nd. Lost to Syracuse in NCAA Midwest semifinal.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 7.
Last league title: 1998.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1989.
Site: Lawrence, Kan.
Website: www.kuathletics.com
Home court: Allen Fieldhouse (16,300).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
3	G	Brett Ballard	Hutchinson, Kan.	6-0/175	Sr.	1.5	0.6	0.6	32.3	85.7	39.1
13	G	Jeff Boschee*	Valley City, N.D.	6-1/185	Sr.	11.1	2.4	3.5	42.7	78.7	36.0
22	F/C	Jeff Carey	Camdenton, Mo.	6-11/250	Sr.	1.6	2.1	0.4	54.3	60.0	0.0
4	F	Nick Collison*	Iowa Falls, Iowa	6-10/250	Jr.	14.0	6.7	2.2	59.7	62.5	40.0
0	F	Drew Gooden*	Richmond, Calif.	6-10/230	Jr.	15.8	8.4	1.7	51.6	64.8	40.0
2	G	Lewis Harrison	Kansas City, Kan.	6-0/165	Sr.	0.4	0.3	0.6	28.6	33.3	100.0
1	G	Jeff Hawkins	Kansas City, Kan.	5-11/155	Fr.	Redshirted last season for lack of playing time.					
10	G	Kirk Hinrich*	Sioux City, Iowa	6-4/180	Jr.	11.5	4.1	6.9	50.0	84.3	50.5
5	G/F	Keith Langford	Fort Wayne, Texas	6-4/200	Fr.	Least heralded of four-player recruiting class.					
25	G	Michael Lee	Portland, Ore.	6-2/210	Fr.	His biggest contributions may be on defense.					
11	G	Aaron Miles	Portland, Ore.	6-0/160	Fr.	Expected to have an immediate impact.					
15	F	Bryant Nash	Carrollton, Texas	6-7/200	So.	0.7	1.2	0.3	28.0	33.3	0.0
23	F	Wayne Simien	Leavenworth, Kan.	6-8/245	Fr.	If the shoulder is OK, watch out.					
34	F	Chris Zerbe	Andover, Kan.	6-5/230	Sr.	1.9	0.6	0.1	68.4	44.4	100.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Luke Axtell	Austin, Texas	6-10/220	5.3	2.6	0.9	37.3	80.0	34.6
C	Eric Chenoweth*	Villa Park, Calif.	7-1/270	9.5	7.6	0.9	45.7	68.4	0.0
G/F	Kenny Gregory	Columbus, Ohio	6-5/208	15.6	7.3	2.4	56.7	42.4	38.6

2. Missouri

National Rank: 9

Schedule

N13-21 Guardians Classic
 N24 Xavier*
 N29 Jackson State
 D1 Grambling State
 D3 at Saint Louis
 D8 Southern
 D15 Iowa
 D22 Illinois**
 D29 at DePaul
 J2 Coppin State
 J5 Nebraska
 J9 at Iowa State
 J12 at Kansas State
 J16 Texas A&M
 J19 Colorado
 J21 at Oklahoma
 J26 Kansas State
 J28 at Kansas
 F3 Virginia
 F6 Iowa State
 F9 at Baylor
 F13 at Nebraska
 F17 Texas
 F20 at Texas Tech
 F23 at Colorado
 F25 Oklahoma State
 M3 Kansas
 *at Indianapolis
 **at St. Louis

FRONT COURT: After contemplating a jump to the NBA, Kareem Rush decided to come back for his junior year. His return gives Missouri more hope entering a season than it has had since the Steve Stipanovich days of the early 1980s. Rush, who was all-Big 12 but missed out on national honors when a thumb injury knocked him out of seven games, isn't the most decorated player in college basketball, but he may be the nation's best college player this side of Duke's Jason Williams. Rush shoots remarkably well for his size. But he won't have to do it all himself. Arthur Johnson became the program's first true post scoring threat in a decade as a freshman. And his defense wasn't bad, either, as Johnson set a school record with 65 blocks and led the team in rebounding. Rickey Paulding, a 6-5 wing, filled in admirably when Rush was hurt, scoring in double figures in five of his eight starts. The excitement over the eligibility of 6-9 forward Travon Bryant was a little overdone, but Bryant came along nicely after a slow start. Coach Quin Snyder went big in recruiting, signing 6-10 Jeffrey Ferguson, 6-7 Najeeb Echols and 6-6 Duane John. The versatile

Echols is capable of playing anywhere from the point to power forward. The Tigers also signed 6-11 Uche Okafor but still were waiting when classes started to see whether the junior college transfer would be eligible.

BACK COURT: Halfway into the Big 12 season, shooting guard Clarence Gilbert needed an attitude adjustment after arguing with an assistant coach. So Snyder suspended him for a game at a time when the Tigers were clawing for an NCAA bid and were without the injured Rush. After Gilbert returned, humbled, he came off the bench for the next five games. The Tigers stayed afloat and Gilbert bought into the system. The episode cost him postseason honors, but Gilbert put up nice numbers and already is the school record-holder for 3-pointers made. Cat-quick sophomore Wesley Stokes moves into the point guard role full time. Shooting guard Josh Kroenke returns after taking a medical redshirt season because of lingering effects of a concussion. His role will be to spell Gilbert.

STRATEGY: When Snyder arrived, he unleashed Gilbert, and for better and for worse his shooting has shaped the Tigers' personality. When Gilbert is rolling, there's not a more dangerous player in the



The Tigers need a better inside game, and they need Gilbert (above) to be more consistent on offense to help prevent defenses from doubling Rush.

country. Gilbert's shooting ability prevents teams from doubling on Rush. But when Gilbert struggles, Missouri struggles. Too often, Gilbert shoots early in a possession without rebounders in position. Or he shoots the Tigers out of a rally. Rush must be the focal point of the offense.

KEY TO THE SEASON: To go from a solid to a great team, from "others receiving votes" to top 10, from second-round loser in the NCAA Tournament to the Sweet 16 and beyond, the Tigers must be more well-rounded. That means a better inside game. With Johnson, the team took a big step in the right direction. His continued improvement will be critical. The arrival of Ferguson also will help. —B.K.

Tigers Data

Coach: Quin Snyder (38-26, 2 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Tony Harvey (2 years), Lane Odum (1), Marcus Perez (1).

2000-2001 record: 20-13. Big 12: 9-7/6th. Lost to Duke in NCAA East second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 25.

Last league title: 1994 (Big Eight).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Columbia, Mo.

Website: www.mutigers.com

Home court: Harnes Center (13,300).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
5	F	Travon Bryant	Long Beach, Calif.	6-9/246	So.	3.0	3.5	0.4	48.5	28.1	—
33	G/F	Najeeb Echols	Chicago	6-7/220	Fr.	Can play just about anywhere and probably will.					
32	F/C	Jeffrey Ferguson	Toronto	6-10/215	Fr.	Intriguing potential but needs to beef up a bit.					
4	G	Clarence Gilbert*	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	6-2/195	Sr.	16.5	2.7	3.5	36.4	80.6	36.8
35	G	Michael Griffin	Norcross, Ga.	6-3/175	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
11	G	Duane John	Toronto	6-6/195	Fr.	Will vie for minutes in the backcourt.					
50	F/C	Arthur Johnson*	Detroit	6-9/275	So.	9.0	7.8	0.8	51.8	54.4	0.0
10	G	Ryan Kiernan	St. Charles, Mo.	6-0/165	Jr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
15	G	Josh Kroenke	Columbia, Mo.	6-4/202	So.	Had little impact as part-time player in 1999-00.					
00	C	Uche Okafor	Anambra, Nigeria	6-11/245	Jr.	Has the size the Tigers have lacked in middle.					
23	G/F	Rickey Paulding	Detroit	6-5/208	So.	7.0	2.4	0.9	42.1	67.9	21.4
21	F	Kareem Rush*	Kansas City, Mo.	6-6/212	Jr.	21.1	6.7	2.0	44.2	80.0	44.8
2	G	Wesley Stokes	Long Beach, Calif.	5-10/173	So.	6.4	1.9	2.0	38.2	69.5	38.6

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Brian Grawer*	St. Louis	6-0/165	8.4	2.6	2.9	40.4	83.6	40.8
F	Johnnie Parker	St. Louis	6-6/221	1.6	1.8	0.2	39.5	63.2	14.3
F/C	Tajudeen Soyoye*	Lagos, Nigeria	6-9/236	6.9	6.6	0.6	44.9	78.0	—

3. Oklahoma State National Rank: 17

Schedule

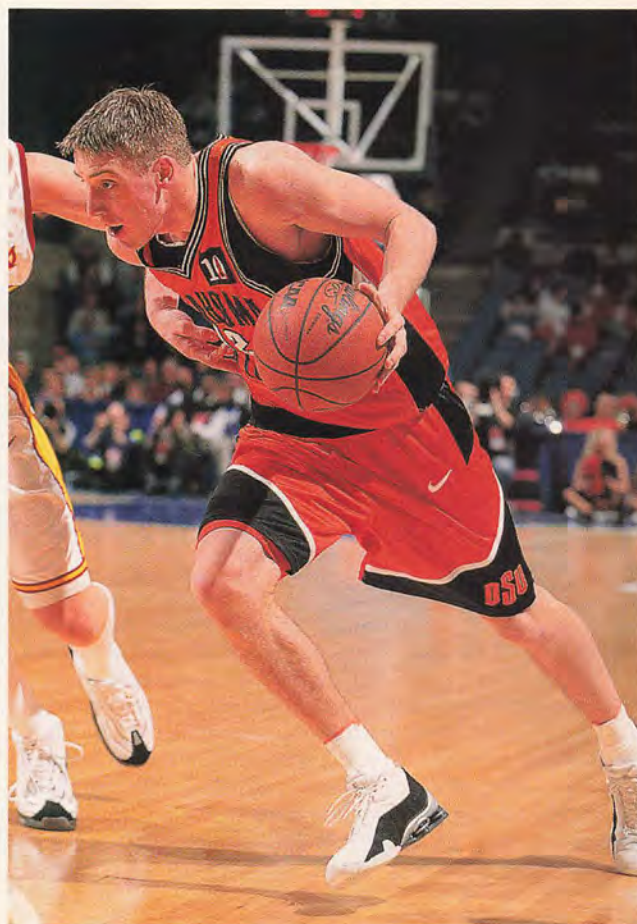
N16 Cincinnati
 N17 Austin Peay
 N19-21 Las Vegas Tourney
 N24 North Texas
 N29 New Orleans
 D1 Wichita State
 D8 Jackson State
 D17 NW State
 D19 at UMKC
 D22 at Arkansas
 D29 Ball State*
 J5 Texas
 J8 at Baylor
 J12 at Iowa State
 J15 Kansas
 J19 at Texas Tech
 J23 Nebraska
 J26 Colorado
 J30 at Oklahoma
 F2 at Kansas State
 F6 Texas Tech
 F10 at Fresno State
 F13 Oklahoma
 F16 at Texas A&M
 F20 at Texas
 F23 Baylor
 F25 at Missouri
 M2 Texas
 *at Oklahoma City

FRONT COURT: Frederik Jonzen continued to improve last season and again should be a solid fixture in the middle. Jonzen prefers to play the high post and can do that thanks to the inside presence of Andre Williams and redshirt freshman Ivan McFarlin. Williams led the team in rebounds and blocks last season, and Cowboys coaches expect him to contribute more on the offensive end this season. McFarlin, a partial qualifier who sat out last season, has been a terror in practice, especially on the boards. He will join Jonzen and Williams to form a three-man rotation of big men. The Cowboys would like Antoine Broxsie or Jack Marlow to join the fray down low. Broxsie is the more likely candidate, as he had some decent moments in limited minutes late in the season. Melvin Sanders and an improving Terrence Crawford are listed at the small forward spot, but the Cowboys do not hesitate to play three guards. Sanders also could end up playing power forward at times.

BACK COURT: One reason OSU has flexibility with its lineup is because shooting guard Maurice Baker is one of the best players

in the country. Despite being just 6-1, he averaged 19.8 points and 6.7 rebounds per game. Baker can do it all. He can shoot, he's tough and he's relentless. Victor Williams started at the point and averaged 11.5 points per game, but he will have to fight for his job with newcomer Cheyne Gadson, a junior college player from New York who averaged 22 ppg last season. Or Gadson and Williams could share the role and reduce some of Baker's ballhandling duties. Fellow junior college signee Aaron Hill, who hit 45 percent of his 3-pointers in 2000-01, brings an added outside threat.

STRATEGY: An athletic squad that likes to run, OSU will score in the mid-70s if Andre Williams can provide some low-post scoring. When the Cowboys are not able to run, Baker and Victor Williams have shown the ability to break down defenders one-on-one, so there is no fear of getting bogged down. Still, the preference is to play an up-tempo game. The Cowboys will spread three and sometimes four players on the perimeter, leaving Andre Williams alone inside. He needs to take advantage of a few more of those situations, as does Jonzen. Defensively, OSU will pressure man-to-man, with jumping jack Andre Williams playing goalie inside.



JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Jonzen improved his scoring by more than 5 points a game last season and should receive more playing time in the high post.

KEY TO THE SEASON: Let Baker flourish. It's not so much as "as Baker goes, so go the Cowboys" because OSU has plenty of talent around him. But Baker can carry a team. The Williamses played a ton of minutes as sophomores. Should one or both have a breakout year, look out for the Cowboys. How quickly the JC guards adjust to the next level also will determine how the team fares in the postseason. Last season, the Cowboys won 20 games and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth straight year. This team will be in the hunt for the Big 12 crown, and with a lucky bounce or two it could find itself talking about the Final Four. —Jerome Solomon

Cowboys Data

Coach: Eddie Sutton (249-105, 11 years; 679-269 overall, 31 years; 32-22 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Sean Sutton (8 years), Glynn Cyprien (1), Kyle Keller (2).
2000-2001 record: 20-10. Big 12: 10-6/5th. Lost to Southern California in NCAA East first round.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 72.
Last league title: 1991 (tie, Big Eight).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Stillwater, Okla.
Website: www.okstate.com
Home court: Gallagher-Iba Arena (13,611).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
1	G	Maurice Baker*	Granite City, Ill.	6-1/175	Sr.	19.8	6.7	4.2	52.5	80.6	40.8
21	F	Antoine Broxsie	Tampa, Fla.	6-10/235	Sr.	2.5	2.4	0.1	56.3	52.9	—
14	F	Terrence Crawford	Oklahoma City	6-6/235	So.	3.5	2.4	0.1	40.0	65.7	26.3
30	G	Cheyne Gadson	Jamaica, N.Y.	6-3/210	Jr.	Good enough to play a lot right away.					
2	G	Aaron Hill	Gunnison, Utah	6-4/180	So.	Cowboys could use his outside shooting ability.					
13	G	Guy Ikpah	Williamstown, N.J.	6-0/165	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					
12	F	Fredrik Jonzen*	Uppsala, Sweden	6-10/230	Sr.	15.0	6.5	2.5	52.0	63.9	0.0
55	C	Jack Marlow	Tulsa, Okla.	7-0/330	So.	1.8	1.7	0.1	51.2	27.3	—
23	F	Ivan McFarlin	Sugar Land, Texas	6-7/210	So.	Needs to do in games what he does in practice.					
34	G/F	Melvin Sanders*	Liberal, Kan.	6-5/205	Jr.	8.0	4.4	0.9	42.5	59.0	33.3
44	C	Frans Steyn	Pretoria, So. Africa	7-1/295	Fr.	Keep the expectations low for at least a year.					
40	F	Andre Williams*	Kansas City, Kan.	6-7/210	Jr.	6.8	7.7	0.8	50.3	44.2	0.0
5	G	Victor Williams*	Kansas City, Kan.	5-10/185	Jr.	11.5	2.8	3.7	36.5	74.5	28.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Jason Keep	Moscow, Idaho	6-10/290	Transferred to San Diego.					

4. Texas

National Rank: 23

Schedule

N21-24 Great Alaska S.O.
 D1 Stanford*
 D5 Texas A&M-CC
 D10 Washington State
 D19 McNeese State
 D22 at UNLV
 D29 at Utah
 J2 Texas-Pan Am
 J5 at Oklahoma State
 J7 Providence
 J12 Baylor
 J14 at Texas Tech
 J19 Nebraska
 J23 Texas A&M
 J26 at Baylor
 J30 at Kansas State
 F2 Oklahoma
 F6 at Texas A&M
 F9 Colorado
 F11 Kansas
 F17 at Missouri
 F20 Oklahoma
 F23 at Oklahoma
 F26 Texas Tech
 M2 at Iowa State
 *Chicago

FRONTCOURT: Texas likes to flex its muscle, and there is no more muscular Longhorn than power forward Chris Owens. The second-team all-league and first-team all-defensive choice set a school record with 92 blocks last season. Owens will get plenty of help inside from James Thomas, a 6-8, 220-pound sophomore. Thomas has set a goal to be among the nation's rebounding leaders. If he increases his production on the glass and starts making his two-foot shots, he can average a double-double. Brian Boddicker, a 6-9 sophomore with an excellent outside touch, gives Texas some offensive punch to go with power in its three-man rotation of big men. Deginald Erskin, a muscle-bound transfer from North Texas, will get plenty of action at small forward.

BACKCOURT: T.J. Ford, an explosive 5-11 freshman, will be handed the reigns at point guard immediately and be expected to lead a team that has had inconsistent backcourt

play since Rick Barnes took over as coach three years ago. In July, Ford was diagnosed with spinal stenosis, a condition that results in the abnormal shrinking of the spinal column. He had neck surgery scheduled, but it subsequently was canceled. Unless his symptoms (numbness, tingling of extremities) reappear and become more severe, surgery is unlikely. Freddie Williams, who averaged 15 minutes a game last season, will fill in during whatever rest time Ford might need. Williams is a quality defender, but he struggled running the offense last season. Sophomore shooting guards Brandon Mouton and Royal Ivey gained valuable experience last year, though they were perhaps thrown into the fray a bit too soon.

STRATEGY: With Ford aboard, the Longhorns can play several ways. To take advantage of his speed, Texas will try to get up and down the floor more often. But Barnes' desire for tough, relentless defense often leads to ugly ball, and that probably won't change overnight. The inside duo of Owens and Thomas gives Texas a strong low-post presence, but it lacks a consistent outside threat. Because of weak perimeter shooting, Texas will need to score more baskets in transition to avoid getting bogged down, as happened so often a year ago. Defensively, the Longhorns try to hold opponents to sub-40 percent shooting and dominate the boards.

Longhorns Data

Coach: Rick Barnes (68-31, 3 years; 270-165 overall, 14 years; 3-9 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Brian Cousins (3 years), Frank Haith (1st year), Russell Springmann (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 25-9. Big 12: 12-4/T 2nd. Lost to Temple in NCAA South first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 26.

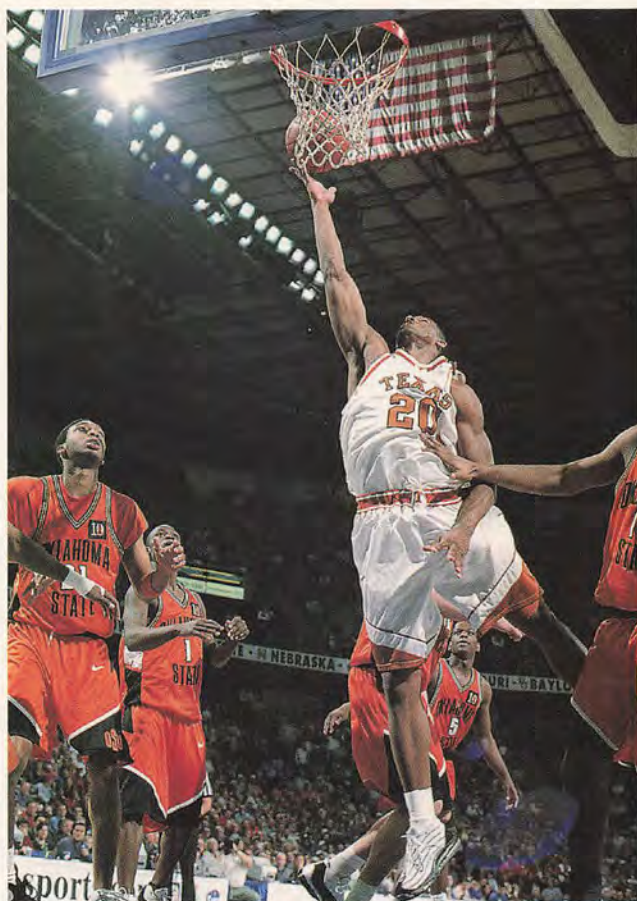
Last league title: 1999.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Austin, Texas.

Website: www.texasports.com

Home court: Frank Erwin Center (16,496).



Owens, whose 92 blocks helped him gain a spot on the Big 12 all-defensive team, headlines one of the nation's top frontcourts.

KEY TO THE SEASON: Ford's medical condition is not expected to be a problem, but if the symptoms return and he is forced to miss some time, the Longhorns will be in trouble, falling from a team with conference championship aspirations to one that probably will make an early exit from the NCAA Tournament. As good as this team is, it likely would have been top 10 material had Maurice Evans not defected early to the NBA. Still, this is a team that should make noise. It is deeper and more experienced than the squad that came within one win last season of matching the school record for victories (26). Remember, four freshmen accounted for 38 percent of the minutes in 2000-01. —J.S.

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
33	F	Brian Boddicker	Duncanville, Texas	6-9/225	So.	5.7	3.9	0.8	36.5	69.4	35.5
15	F	Deginald Erskin	Gonzalez, Texas	6-6/220	Jr.	Team has high hopes for ex-North Texas player.					
11	G	T.J. Ford	Houston	5-11/165	Fr.	The highest-profile recruit in Texas history.					
32	G	Drew Gressett	Austin, Texas	6-1/162	So.	0.0	0.5	0.0	—	—	—
24	G	Royal Ivey*	Queens, N.Y.	6-4/190	So.	2.8	1.6	1.7	36.5	65.9	25.0
21	C	Jason Klotz	Klein, Texas	6-10/235	Fr.	0.0	0.0	0.3	—	—	—
3	G/F	Brandon Mouton	Lafayette, La.	6-5/210	So.	5.4	2.3	1.3	39.4	50.0	37.3
45	F	Chris Ogden	Seminole, Texas	6-7/215	Jr.	2.2	1.5	0.4	38.2	70.0	34.1
20	F	Chris Owens*	Duncanville, Texas	6-8/245	Sr.	14.4	7.9	0.9	44.0	64.1	13.0
23	G	Terrell Ross	Laurel, Md.	6-4/190	Jr.	Should be part of eight-man rotation.					
0	C	James Thomas*	Schenectady, N.Y.	6-8/220	So.	7.0	6.5	0.4	48.4	45.7	—
10	G	Freddie Williams	Evans, Ga.	5-11/178	Sr.	3.7	1.4	2.1	51.6	58.8	56.3
44	F/C	Chris Wright	Redwater, Texas	6-10/235	Fr.	Sat out senior HS season with a knee injury.					
2	F	William Wyatt	Grand Prairie, Texas	6-8/222	Jr.	1.3	1.6	0.1	31.4	73.7	27.3

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Roosevelt Brown	Duncanville, Texas	6-3/18	Transferred to Southwest Texas.					
G/F	Maurice Evans*	Wichita, Kan.	6-5/220	15.6	5.3	1.6	44.0	75.7	38.9
G	Darren Kelly*	Forrestville, Md.	6-3/190	15.3	4.6	2.9	36.0	76.0	27.6

5. Oklahoma

National Rank: 36

FRONTCOURT: Senior power forward Aaron McGhee started off with a bang but fizzled late in the season. He will need to rebound better and be a more consistent scorer. Small forward Daryan Selvy made big strides late in the season and could have a breakout year. He is an active player who can be a difficult matchup. Coach Kelvin Sampson expects transfer Jabahri Brown to do damage immediately. Brown brings size and athleticism into the post, and Sampson says his upside is nearly unlimited.

BACKCOURT: The Sooners have only one guard who has played Division I ball, but he is better than average. Point guard Hollis Price led the team in assists, steals and minutes, and he averaged 11.8 points per game. Price suffered a nasty tear of his triceps tendon in the Sooners' loss to Indiana State in the NCAA Tournament and underwent three surgeries in the 10 days following the injury. He still was not 100 percent by late summer, but he hopes to be ready when the season starts. OU will need him because its remaining ballhandlers will come from the junior college ranks. Quannas White, who teamed with Price in high school, should share time with him at the point. Jason Detrick and Ebi Ere are a pair of 6-5 scorers who could surprise.

STRATEGY: Sampson is not quite the WWF-style coach he is often accused of being, but his teams get after it on the defensive end. The past couple of years, the Sooners relied on a heavy dose of 3-point shooting, but with the departures of gunners Kelly Newton and Tim Heskett and the dismissal of outside threat J.R. Raymond, OU may not fire away as often. With as many good athletes as they have, the Sooners could surprise opponents by out-running them. They need a healthy Price and a more consistent McGhee to contend for the Big 12 crown. But an eighth straight trip to the NCAA Tournament is a lock. —J.S.

Sooners Data

Coach: Kelvin Sampson (156-69, 7 years; 332-217 overall, 17 years; 3-8 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Ray Lopes (7 years), Jim Shaw (2), Bennie Seltzer (4).
2000-2001 record: 26-7. Big 12: 12-4/T2nd. Lost to Indiana State in

NCAA Midwest first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 23.

Last league title: 1989 (Big Eight).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.

Site: Norman, Okla.

Website: www.soonersports.com

Home court: Lloyd Noble Center (12,000).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
20	G	Richard Ainooson	6-3/185	Jr.	0.7	0.4	0.0	66.7	0.0	50.0
21	C	Jabahri Brown	6-10/210	So.	Played freshman year at Fla. International.					
5	G	Jason Detrick	6-5/210	Jr.	Not afraid to take a shot—or a charge.					
2	G	Ebi Ere	6-5/215	Jr.	Has great size for a wing player; can score.					
32	F	Johnnie Gilbert	6-8/230	So.	2.3	4.3	0.5	52.3	38.9	—
15	G/F	Matt Gipson	6-9/205	Fr.	Sampson is high on his potential.					
12	G	Blake Johnson	6-1/180	Fr.	Sat out last season with a hip injury.					
13	F	Aaron McGhee*	6-8/250	Sr.	12.9	4.8	0.7	46.0	77.0	48.9
10	G	Hollis Price*	6-1/165	Jr.	11.8	2.6	4.7	43.3	81.1	34.2
24	F	Daryan Selvy	6-6/215	Sr.	6.9	5.2	0.9	45.9	64.2	16.7
42	C	Jozsef Szendrei*	6-9/240	Jr.	4.0	4.0	0.0	60.0	50.0	—
4	G	Quannas White	6-1/190	Jr.	Ran same offense as OU's in JC ranks.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Ronnie Griffin	6-9/235	Dismissed from team.					
F	Jameel Heywood	6-6/230	3.8	4.6	0.7	43.7	66.0	—
G	Nolan Johnson*	6-4/215	13.2	4.9	1.8	44.9	82.6	29.7
G	Kelly Newton	6-2/190	9.8	2.5	1.3	46.3	76.2	43.4
G	J.R. Raymond*	6-2/175	Dismissed from team.					

Schedule

N13-23 Preseason NIT	D16	B.-Cookman	J16	at Nebraska	F9	at Texas A&M
N28 Central Michigan	D18	Eastern Illinois	J19	at Kansas	F13	at Oklahoma St.
D1 at Arkansas	D21	Maryland	J21	Missouri	F16	Kansas State
D5 St. Bonaventure	D28	All-Coll. Classic	J26	at Texas Tech	F19	at Baylor
D8 Louisiana Tech	J5	Texas A&M	J30	Oklahoma State	F23	Texas
D15 High Point	J7	at Connecticut	F2	at Texas	F26	Iowa State
	J12	Texas Tech	F6	Baylor	M2	at Colorado

6. Iowa State

National Rank: 46

FRONTCOURT: This area figured to be the team's weakness entering last season but became a strength as Martin Rancik and Paul Shirley held their own against the league's top big men in Iowa State's run to a second straight Big 12 title. There's much uncertainty about the unit this season, but one thing is clear: Tyray Pearson is a good rebounder with a chance to become a solid scorer around the basket. With Rancik and Shirley gone, coach Larry Eustachy went wholesale recruiting, landing promising junior college transfer Tommie King and freshman Adam Schaper. The Cyclones hold hopes for vast improvement from 7-1 sophomore center Andrew Skoglund and junior Omar Bynum.

BACKCOURT: Big 12 Player of the Year Jamaal Tinsley has moved on, as have Kantrail Horton and Richard Evans. But the backcourt remains the team's strongest spot with sophomores Jake Sullivan and Shane Power. Sullivan stunned the conference by hitting 44.9 percent of his 3-point attempts and averaging 11.4 points on his way to winning Big 12 Freshman of the Year honors. Power didn't have the same impact, but he flashed his potential with an 18-point game (5-for-6 on 3s) against Kansas. Eustachy thought about moving Sullivan to the point, but the best lineup will be Sullivan and Power on the floor with point guard Ricky Morgan, a heralded freshman recruit from Pontiac, Mich.

STRATEGY: This is always the most difficult team in the Big 12 to predict. Who knew Marcus Fizer would turn out to be among the nation's best players two years ago? Same for Tinsley the past two seasons. Whatever the personnel, Eustachy's basic philosophy doesn't change. He wants to be more physical than you and get to the free-throw line much more than you. It's not always ballet basketball, but it has worked for the Cyclones. The question this season is: Does Iowa State have the horses to make it work? —B.K.

Cyclones Data

Coach: Larry Eustachy (72-26, 3 years; 231-112 overall, 11 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Randy Brown (2 years), Bob Sundvold (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 25-6. Big 12: 13-3/1st. Lost to Hampton in NCAA

West first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 33.

Last league title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Ames, Iowa.

Website: www.cyclones.com

Home court: Hilton Coliseum (14,092).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
1	F	Omar Bynum	6-7/210	Jr.	1.9	1.2	0.3	56.3	47.1	0.0
40	G	Brad Davis	6-2/185	Jr.	2.8	1.4	0.0	57.1	100.0	80.0
51	C	Jared Homan	6-9/225	Fr.	Lone Iowan in 2001-02 recruiting class.					
50	G/F	Marcus Jefferson	6-5/195	So.	3.5	2.6	0.7	34.8	83.3	13.3
2	F	Tommie King	6-7/225	Jr.	Great athlete owns 40-inch vertical leap.					
11	G	Ricky Morgan	6-0/180	Fr.	Tinsley's heir apparent at point guard.					
34	F	Tyray Pearson	6-7/210	Sr.	8.4	4.4	0.3	64.5	69.1	—
21	F	Shane Power	6-5/210	So.	4.7	3.8	0.8	38.2	72.1	44.4
15	F	Adam Schaper	6-9/210	Fr.	Could play a lot in rookie campaign.					
54	C	Andrew Skoglund	7-1/220	So.	1.2	1.5	0.0	33.3	54.5	—
0	G	Jake Sullivan*	6-1/190	So.	11.4	1.9	1.3	48.0	87.9	44.9
33	F	Clint Varley	6-4/225	Jr.	0.8	0.3	0.0	66.7	50.0	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F/G	Richard Evans	6-5/190	3.0	3.4	0.3	46.4	70.7	—
G	Kantrail Horton*	6-1/225	10.7	5.4	3.1	40.8	85.2	39.8
F	Martin Rancik*	6-8/230	13.2	5.5	0.6	54.3	76.0	28.6
F	Paul Shirley*	6-10/230	10.0	6.9	0.9	52.0	67.2	50.0
G	Jamaal Tinsley*	6-3/195	14.3	3.8	6.0	39.9	69.2	38.1

Schedule

N22-24 Las Vegas Inv.	D16	at Drake	J16	at Colorado	F13	Colorado
N27 Savannah State	D23	Md.-East. Shore	J19	at Kansas State	F16	Nebraska
N30-D1 Cyclone Chall.	D29	Northern Iowa	J23	Kansas	F18	at Kansas
D4 Ark.-Pine Bluff	D31	Morris Brown	J26	at Nebraska	F23	Kansas State
D8 Iowa	J5	at Baylor	J29	Texas A&M	F26	at Oklahoma
D11 at Boston College	J9	Missouri	F2	at Texas Tech	M2	Texas
	J12	Oklahoma State	F6	at Missouri		

7. Colorado

National Rank: 66

FRONT COURT: Colorado got more buff with the addition of 7-footer David Harrison, who averaged 28.3 points, 13.1 rebounds and 5.6 blocks for Brentwood Academy in Nashville. Harrison picked the Buffaloes over North Carolina, Duke and Vanderbilt. Colorado had two big advantages. Coach Ricardo Patton is from Nashville, and Harrison's brother, D.J., led the Buffaloes in scoring as a first-year starter last season. The Harrisons will be joined up front by 6-9 junior Stephane Pelle, who was one of the conference's most improved players last season. Michel Morandais, a 6-6 sophomore wing, also figures to get minutes, as does 6-9 freshman Jason Carter.

BACK COURT: Colorado got plenty of playmaking but few points from point guard Jose Winston, who left the team after the season with a year of eligibility remaining. For a replacement, the team has Chevis Brimmer, who assumed many of the point guard duties toward the end of last year, and 6-2 James "Mookie" Wright, who averaged 17.1 points and seven assists as a junior college player last season. Shooting guard Justin Harbert is the team's top 3-point shooter at 41.7 percent, and Nick Mohr is not far behind at 37.6 percent. Blair Wilson provides depth at both shooting guard and small forward.

STRATEGY: Colorado surprised outsiders with its run-and-gun philosophy to open last year. The Buffs scored more than 100 points four times. They ranked among the nation's scoring leaders when league play started despite the absence of a true go-to guy. But when Colorado faced a good defensive team, the strategy broke down and the team had trouble adjusting to a half-court game. This season, when the tempo slows, Colorado must figure out a way to attack. The team will have an easier time doing that than last year if David Harrison develops into an offensive weapon. —B.K.

8. Baylor

National Rank: 74

FRONT COURT: The Bears lost a lot with the graduation of leading scorer and rebounder Terry Black, but they hope an influx of talent will offset his departure. Coach Dave Bliss expects 6-8 freshman Lawrence Roberts to have an instant impact at small forward. Roberts will play some inside as well, but his solid mid-range game probably will keep him on the wing offensively, and his athleticism will help the Bears in transition. Roberts should win the starting nod over Rod Nealy, a junior college transfer, and Chad Elsey, who is coming off a disappointing season. Greg Davis (6-9) will line up at power forward, with 6-10 sophomore newcomer R.T. Guinn getting the nod at center. Guinn, described by Bliss as an "amazing shooter," started nearly half the season as a freshman at New Mexico in Bliss' final season there.

BACK COURT: It will be difficult to replace iron man DeMarcus Minor at point guard, but sophomore Matt Sayman will be the first to try. He played 17 minutes a game last year, but the majority of that was at shooting guard. Freshman John Lucas might be asked to play significant minutes if Sayman can't get it done. Lucas is only 5-10, and he's more of a scorer than a distributor. Shooting guard is probably Baylor's best position. Junior Wendell Greenleaf started last season, but he might have to look elsewhere for minutes with Kevin Henry, another of Bliss' former New Mexico charges, becoming eligible this season.

STRATEGY: It's simple: Play a weak schedule, win all of those games and see if you can steal enough conference wins to sneak into the NCAA Tournament. OK, that may not be on-the-court strategy, but it's the team's philosophy under Bliss. That's how it ran off an impressive 12-0 record to begin last season. By the end, the Bears had two wins over top 10 teams and received an NIT bid, their first postseason nod in 11 years. Expect a repeat. —J.S.

Buffaloes Data

Coach: Ricardo Patton (90-77, 6 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Terry Dunn (6 years), Larry Gay (2), Jason Shelton (1).

2000-2001 record: 15-15. Big 12: 5-11/9th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 69.

Last league title: 1969 (Big Eight).

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Boulder, Colo.

Website: www.cubuffs.com

Home court: Coors Events Center (11,076).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
1	G	Chevis Brimmer	5-11/170	So.	2.8	0.6	0.7	31.4	72.0	25.6
4	F	Jason Carter	6-9/255	Fr.	Expected to provide frontcourt depth.					
40	F	A. Doumbouya	6-9/220	So.	Grew up in Conakry, Guinea.					
33	G	Justin Harbert	6-1/190	So.	7.7	1.4	0.9	44.3	78.1	41.7
50	C	David Harrison	7-0/240	Fr.	Considered top recruit in CU history.					
44	G/F	D.J. Harrison*	6-7/215	Sr.	15.2	4.7	1.6	45.8	74.8	39.0
24	G	Trennis Jones	6-2/185	So.	1.7	1.0	0.7	25.0	50.0	42.9
21	G	Nick Mohr*	6-5/190	Sr.	8.7	2.1	2.2	45.1	81.1	37.6
30	G/F	Michel Morandais	6-6/195	So.	5.1	2.9	0.9	45.2	64.5	40.9
34	F	Stephane Pelle*	6-9/240	Jr.	11.3	7.5	0.7	47.9	77.3	0.0
15	F	Preston Slaughter	6-5/230	Sr.	1.6	0.6	0.4	66.7	50.0	—
43	G/F	Blair Wilson	6-7/230	So.	4.4	1.8	0.8	35.6	80.8	30.7
11	G	James Wright	6-2/170	Jr.	The point guard job is his to lose.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Richard Fox	6-10/250	Transferred to Gonzaga.					
F	Jamahl Mosley*	6-8/225	13.9	7.6	1.0	56.0	77.0	0.0
G	Jose Winston*	6-0/180	Transferred to Wisconsin-Milwaukee.					

Schedule

N17	Ark.-Pine Bluff	D13	Southern	J22	Kansas State	F16	Texas Tech
N19	Regis	D30	Wis.-Milwaukee	J26	at Oklahoma St.	F20	at Kansas State
N25	at St. Joseph's	J2	St. Mary's	J30	Baylor	F23	Missouri
D1	California	J9	Morris Brown	F2	at Kansas	F26	at Texas A&M
D5	at Colorado State	J12	at Nebraska	F5	Nebraska	M2	Oklahoma
D8	Wagner	J16	Iowa State	F9	at Texas		

Bears Data

Coach: Dave Bliss (33-27, 2 years; 498-298 overall, 26 years; 8-11 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Doug Ash (2 years), Kevin Lewis (2), Brian O'Neill (2).

2000-2001 record: 19-12. Big 12:

6-10/8th. Lost to New Mexico in NIT first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 129.

Last league title: 1950 (tie, SWC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Waco, Texas.

Website: www.gobaylorbears.com

Home court: Ferrell Center (10,284).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
32	F	Greg Davis*	6-9/230	Sr.	9.2	6.1	1.5	53.1	61.8	31.0
30	G/F	Chad Elsey	6-6/210	Sr.	6.8	1.9	1.2	32.1	74.2	25.9
20	G	Wendell Greenleaf*	6-2/190	Jr.	10.6	2.6	2.6	36.8	60.7	28.6
34	C	R.T. Guinn	6-10/235	So.	Played for Bliss at New Mexico.					
11	G	Kevin Henry	6-2/200	Sr.	Also played for Bliss at New Mexico.					
	G	John Lucas	5-10/165	Fr.	Son of Cleveland Cavs coach John Lucas.					
50	F	Logan Kosmalski*	6-8/235	So.	6.1	3.7	0.5	46.0	64.2	33.3
	F	Rod Nealy	6-6/210	Jr.	Has a fight on his hands for playing time.					
55	C	Steve Othoro	6-10/260	Jr.	3.7	3.4	0.1	68.1	53.1	—
42	F	Jason Pritchard	6-6/220	Jr.	0.7	1.0	0.1	30.0	—	25.0
44	F	Lawrence Roberts	6-8/220	Fr.	Bliss expects him to start right away.					
13	G	Matt Sayman	6-3/180	So.	4.9	1.6	1.5	41.0	83.7	37.7
	G	Kenny Taylor	6-3/175	Fr.	A good outside shooter in high school.					
12	G	Andre White	6-0/175	Jr.	1.0	0.1	0.1	50.0	33.3	33.3

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Terry Black*	6-5/215	15.4	8.4	3.2	60.3	52.9	31.0
G	DeMarcus Minor*	6-4/215	15.1	5.9	4.5	39.8	84.2	32.8

Schedule

N17	Hardin-Simmons	D17	Centenary	J16	Kansas State	F13	at Texas Tech
N21	Texas-Arlington	D20-22	San Juan Shoot.	J19	at Texas A&M	F16	at Kansas
N24	Sacred Heart	D29	at TCU	J26	Texas	F19	Oklahoma
N27	SMU	J2	Colorado State	J30	at Colorado	F23	at Oklahoma St.
N29	CS Fullerton	J5	Iowa State	F3	Texas A&M	F27	at Nebraska
D1	at Rice	J8	Oklahoma State	F6	at Oklahoma		

9. Texas Tech

National Rank: 100

FRONT COURT: Bob Knight's first Texas Tech squad is a mystery team, largely because of player turnover. Only four of the nine players from last season's roster who had eligibility remaining are back. Knight signed five players, including four junior college transfers, and will welcome two walk-ons who are expected to battle for spots in the rotation. One known quantity is stringy 6-11 center Andy Ellis, who led Tech in scoring and minutes and was second in rebounds a year ago. Knight will push Ellis to be tougher inside. Freshman Mickey Michalec, Ellis' probable backup, has dropped from 295 pounds to 265 thanks to on-campus summer conditioning. JC transfers probably will fill the two forward spots. Pawel Storzowski will be asked to play face-up at power forward, with Kasib Powell at small forward.

BACK COURT: Often a weakness last season, mostly because of inexperience, the backcourt might be the strength of this season's team. Tech returns a trio of sophomores who saw significant action in their first year. Andre Emmett, Marcus Shropshire and Mikey Marshall each played more than 20 minutes a game in conference play. Will Chavis, a 5-10 transfer, will push Shropshire for the starting nod at the point, while 6-6 Nick Valdez will battle Emmett and Marshall at shooting guard. Freshman Nathan Doudney, who originally signed with Tulsa, could find a spot in the rotation, as could fellow walk-on Ronald Ross.

STRATEGY: Knight's plan is simple: nasty man-to-man defense and a slew of picks and motion on offense. Tough defense will shock no one in the conference. Texas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Iowa State are as physical as they come. There's not enough talent on the roster for Tech to be a threat this season, but Knight's teams always are competitive, and he often does his best coaching with his less-talented teams. —J.S.

Red Raiders Data

Coach: Bob Knight (1st year; 763-290 overall, 35 years; 41-20 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA titles with Indiana in 1976, '81 and '87).
Assistant coaches: Bob Beyer (1 year), Pat Knight (1st year) and Chris Beard (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 9-19. Big 12: 3-13/T11th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 77.

Last league title: 1986 (tie, SWC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: Lubbock, Texas.

Website: www.texastech.com

Home court: United Spirit Arena (15,050).

Roster		*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%	
35	G	Jesus Arenas	6-4/195	Sr.	Only Lubbock native on this year's roster.						
3	G	Chris Cassidy	5-10/175	Jr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	
	G	Will Chavis	5-10/175	Jr.	Will battle for minutes at point guard.						
12	G	Nathan Doudney	6-4/185	Fr.	First-team all-state in Texas.						
55	C	Andy Ellis*	6-11/225	Sr.	14.2	6.3	0.9	44.4	73.5	25.0	
14	G	Andre Emmett	6-5/205	So.	7.7	3.6	1.0	39.5	63.3	29.0	
23	G	Mikey Marshall*	6-4/195	So.	3.5	3.8	1.4	41.5	67.7	21.7	
	C	Mickey Michalec	7-0/265	Fr.	Hoping his summer conditioning pays off.						
	F	Kasib Powell	6-7/200	Jr.	Expected to play a lot.						
24	G	Ronald Ross	6-2/178	Fr.	Averaged 25.6 ppg, 4 spg as senior in N.M.						
10	G	Marcus Shropshire	6-0/200	So.	5.3	1.6	2.1	32.9	76.2	31.7	
	F	Pawel Storzowski	6-8/215	Jr.	Another newcomer Knight is counting on.						
	G	Nick Valdez	6-6/200	Jr.	Could play a lot at shooting guard.						

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Cliff Owens*	6-8/240	12.6	7.4	0.8	55.0	56.9	0.0
G	Jamal Brown*	6-0/185	10.7	2.6	6.3	34.1	70.6	26.6
G	Jayson Mitchell*	6-4/295	7.8	3.9	1.4	39.2	75.4	34.2
G	Ronald Hobbs	6-6/180	5.5	2.4	0.6	48.5	67.7	15.8

Schedule

N16-17	Red Raider Cl.	D3	Texas-Arlington	J9	at Texas A&M	F6	at Oklahoma St.
N20	at SMU	D14	at Houston	J12	at Oklahoma	F9	at Kansas
N24	Sam Houston St.	D17	La.-Lafayette	J14	Texas	F13	Baylor
N26	UTEP	D22	Stetson	J19	Oklahoma State	F16	at Colorado
N28	at New Mex. St.	D30	Minnesota	J26	Oklahoma	F20	Missouri
D1	TCU	J1	Wyoming	J30	at Nebraska	F23	Texas A&M
		J6	Kansas State	F2	Iowa State	F26	at Texas
						M2	at Baylor

10. Kansas State

National Rank: 109

FRONT COURT: Strange thing about forward Travis Reynolds: When he comes off the bench, the points and rebounds flow. When he starts, he nearly disappears. Look for Reynolds to ride the pine, at least until the first time the clock stops. Matt Siebrandt doesn't have the same problem. His snake-like moves around the basket and ability to shoot with both hands have made him the team's top inside scoring threat. Coach Jim Wooldridge went big in recruiting and signed 6-9 forward Travis Canby from Fork Union, Va., Academy; 6-7 Marcelo Da Barrosa from Brazil; and a couple of junior college transfers in 6-9 forward Pervis Pasco and 6-6 slasher Janerio Spurlock. They could make it difficult for 6-8 senior Ivan Sulic from Croatia to get playing time.

BACK COURT: Team scoring leaders Phineas Atchison and Larry Reid were better than advertised last year. Especially Reid at the point. At times, he played like an all-conference guard, notching 31 points against Iowa and 30 at Iowa State. Reid was honorable mention All-Big 12 and should be more than that this season. Only two players in the league averaged more than his 34.8 minutes per game. Quentin Buchanan, a 6-7 wing, is one of the team's top defenders and has untapped offensive ability. Newcomers Gilson DeJesus and Marcus Hayes signed with K-State because they saw immediate playing opportunities.

STRATEGY: The triangle offense played to good reviews last season. The Wildcats struggled early but found their stride in late December with an upset win over Iowa. K-State defeated two other ranked teams and played some of the Big 12's top teams down to the wire. Wooldridge is defensive-minded, and the Wildcats held opponents to 39.7 percent shooting in league games. But the 'Cats need to shoot better themselves. If that happens, K-State could make a run at a .500 league season. —B.K.

Wildcats Data

Coach: Jim Wooldridge (11-18, 1 year; 240-165, 14 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Mike Miller (1 year), Robbie Laing (1), Charles Barker (1).
2000-2001 record: 11-18. Big 12:

4-12/10th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 163.

Last league title: 1977 (Big Eight).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Manhattan, Kan.

Website: www.k-statesports.com

Home court: Bramlage Coliseum

(13,500).

Roster		*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%	
23	G	Phineas Atchison	6-1/170	Sr.	11.7	2.3	0.8	38.6	78.9	40.5	
3	F	Quentin Buchanan*	6-7/200	Jr.	7.3	3.8	1.5	40.8	75.0	23.5	
40	F	Travis Canby	6-9/233	Fr.	Expected to help immediately in low post.						
13	F	Marcelo Da Barrosa	6-7/220	Fr.	A hard-nosed inside player.						
32	G	Gilson DeJesus	6-5/215	Jr.	Explosive wing can score inside or out.						
1	G	Marcus Hayes	6-4/191	Fr.	Won't turn 18 until after the season starts.						
33	F	Richard Nolan	6-9/195	Fr.	Local product will vie for roster as walk-on.						
44	F	Pervis Pasco	6-9/218	Jr.	Averaged 18.9 ppg in JC ranks last year.						
11	G	Larry Reid*	6-0/170	Sr.	11.2	3.2	3.8	35.8	73.8	33.0	
5	F	Travis Reynolds	6-7/210	Sr.	10.5	7.7	1.2	52.3	67.6	0.0	
34	F	Matt Siebrandt	6-8/240	Jr.	9.7	3.8	1.0	47.1	73.3	0.0	
42	F	Janerio Spurlock	6-6/215	Jr.	Originally signed with Louisville out of HS.						
21	C	Ivan Sulic*	6-8/235	Sr.	0.6	1.4	0.0	33.3	50.0	—	
24	G	Nick Williams	6-4/175	Fr.	Was considered a top 10 prospect in Texas.						

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Kelvin Howell*	6-9/240	6.7	6.8	0.9	46.8	42.0	—
G	Richie Terry*	6-3/210	Left team.					

Schedule

N16	Troy State	D8	at Northwestern	J16	at Baylor	F9	at Nebraska
N20	Wis.-Green Bay	D15	North Texas	J19	Iowa State	F12	Texas A&M
N24	Mississippi	D19	Western Carolina	J22	at Colorado	F16	at Oklahoma
N27	Tennessee State	D22	at Iowa	J26	at Missouri	F20	Colorado
D1	Gardner-Webb	D29	Fair. Dickinson	J30	Texas	F23	at Iowa State
D5	Wichita State	J6	at Texas Tech	F2	Oklahoma State	F27	at Kansas
		J12	Missouri	F4	Kansas	M2	Nebraska

11. Texas A&M

National Rank: 135

FRONTCOURT: Coach Melvin Watkins will have competition and depth up front, particularly if the Aggies do not suffer through another injury-filled season. The return of Tomas Ress (staph infection) and Andy Slocum (shoulder surgery) gives the Aggies a pair of 6-11 players to throw into the rotation. The two took medical redshirts last season. They won't just walk into starting spots, however. Returning starters Nolan Butterfrass and Nick Anderson are only sophomores, and Keith Bean, Jesse King and Larry Scott are quality forwards.

BACKCOURT: This is where Watkins hopes his team has made the biggest improvement. Struggling point guard Jamaal Gilchrist decided to leave the team, and the Aggies didn't put up a fight to keep him. Incoming junior college signees Michael Gardener and Bradley Jackson will split time at the point, making for an instant upgrade. Shooting guard Bernard King is coming off another impressive year offensively. He became the first Aggies sophomore to reach 1,000 career points and was one of only three Division I players to average 18 points and at least 4.5 assists. He still took too many bad shots and brooded a bit when things did not go his way, but he showed a willingness to let teammates help the team win. He just didn't have enough quality teammates to turn to.

STRATEGY: Watkins has wanted to run, but limited numbers and talent prevented that the past two seasons. This season, the Aggies should get up and down the floor more easily and surprise some people. If Gardener and Jackson blend successfully with King in the backcourt, A&M will be much better. The team still is quite young—the only senior is former walk-on guard Andy Leatherman. It may be a year early for the Aggies to jump into the upper division of the Big 12, but they should improve on last season's 10-20 overall record and 3-13 conference mark. —J.S.

Aggies Data

Coach: Melvin Watkins (30-55, 3 years; 72-75 overall, 5 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Todd Billeter (3 years), Lew Hill (3) and Bobby Kummer (3).

2000-2001 record: 10-20. Big 12:

3-13/T11th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 156.

Last league title: 1986 (tie, SWC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: College Station, Texas.

Website: www.aggieathletics.com

Home court: Reed Arena (12,500).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
5	F	Nick Anderson*	6-6/226	So.	10.3	5.2	0.9	45.5	64.1	23.1
2	F	Keith Bean	6-8/241	Jr.	7.0	5.5	1.0	49.7	51.8	0.0
44	C	Nolan Butterfrass*	6-10/244	So.	2.4	2.0	0.1	49.0	57.1	—
1	G	Michael Gardener	5-10/165	So.	Detroit native expected to start.					
4	F	Jared Hall	6-7/215	Fr.	Playing time will be sparse.					
24	G	Bradley Jackson	5-10/180	Jr.	Will play a lot behind Gardener at the point.					
32	G	Bernard King*	6-5/188	Jr.	18.0	3.8	4.8	40.4	67.9	31.6
3	F/G	Jesse King	6-7/216	So.	4.6	3.4	0.5	33.3	59.3	17.6
22	G	Andy Leatherman*	6-3/205	Sr.	6.3	2.9	2.0	33.1	78.1	29.2
21	G	Daryl Mason	6-6/190	Fr.	Faces an upward climb for minutes.					
14	F	Tomas Ress	6-11/234	So.	1.5	0.5	0.0	20.0	—	25.0
25	F	Larry Scott	6-6/201	Jr.	1.8	1.1	0.2	39.3	62.5	36.4
50	C	Andy Slocum	6-11/285	So.	Bulked up nicely over the summer.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Carlton Brown*	6-6/215	9.8	5.2	0.9	51.6	74.7	54.5
G	Jamaal Gilchrist	5-10/180	Left team.					
F	Aaron Jack	6-9/240	4.9	4.9	0.4	55.0	61.5	—

Schedule

N19 George Wash.	D8 Miami (Fla.)	J16 at Missouri	F9 Oklahoma
N24 at Lamar	D14 Tulsa	J19 Baylor	F12 at Kansas State
N26 Davidson	D20-22 Las Vegas Cl.	J23 at Texas	F16 Oklahoma State
N30 Long Beach State	D30 at North Carolina	J26 Kansas	F20 Nebraska
D2 Loy. Marymount	J3 at Centenary	J29 at Iowa State	F23 at Texas Tech
D5 Southeastern La.	J5 at Oklahoma	F3 at Baylor	F26 Colorado
	J9 Texas Tech	F6 Texas	M2 at Oklahoma St.

12. Nebraska

National Rank: 154

FRONTCOURT: It's not that 6-11 Brian Conklin doesn't like to mix it up, it's just that when a player shoots the 3 as well as he does, you let him take it. Conklin averaged only 4 points and 2.8 rebounds, but he made 23-of-54 from behind the 3-point line (42.6 percent). He is the team's most proven front-line player. Make that the only one. Coach Barry Collier has major holes to fill with the loss of four starters, including center Kimani Ffriend and forward Steffon Bradford. The rotation will come from a mixture of seldom-used returning players such as Ross Buckendahl and Justin Boeker, who figures to get first crack at the starting center job, and newcomers Marques McCarty, who redshirted last season, and freshmen Dan Heimos and John Turek.

BACKCOURT: Cary Cochran is Nebraska's lone returning starter. He's also one of the best perimeter shooters in the land, leading the Big 12 with 48.3 percent shooting behind the arc in league games. He tied a school record with 78 3-pointers last season. John Robinson, a transfer from New Mexico, got in 21 games and averaged 3.1 points. He'll get a look at the point. Kedrick Ford, in his first year after transferring from junior college, played even less last season—13 games. So junior college transfer Brennon Clemmons, who averaged 14 points at Olney Central, Ill., Community College, and freshmen Corey Simms and Jake Muhlheisen (Nebraska's Mr. Basketball), will need to learn on the job.

STRATEGY: Collier changed Nebraska's speed last season and ran into problems with the players he inherited. They weren't trained for halfcourt basketball. This team will be built to fit his philosophy, and Collier will demand fewer mistakes and more selective shooting. But does that style of game inspire top-notch recruits? Collier must make it work with a patchwork team this season. —B.K.

Cornhuskers Data

Coach: Barry Collier (14-16, 1 year; 210-148 overall, 12 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Dave Campbell (1 year), Reggie Rankin (1), Kevin Mouton (1).

2000-2001 record: 14-16. Big 12:

7-9/7th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 150.

Last league title: 1950 (Big Eight).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Lincoln, Neb.

Website: www.huskers.com

Home court: Bob Devaney Sports Center (13,500).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter								
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%	
4	F/C	Justin Boeker	6-9/240	Sr.	1.1	0.7	0.0	66.7	100.0	—	
23	F	Ross Buckendahl	6-5/220	Sr.	Has improved speed after year off.						
41	F	Ben Chesnut	6-6/220	So.	1.0	0.5	0.0	66.7	—	—	
32	G	Brennon Clemmons	6-2/190	Jr.	Should be a force at both ends of floor.						
3	G	Cary Cochran*	6-1/185	Sr.	9.6	2.4	2.2	46.0	87.1	47.3	
20	F/C	Brian Conklin	6-11/220	So.	4.0	2.8	1.1	43.1	58.8	42.6	
5	G	Kedrick Ford	6-2/185	Sr.	1.1	0.3	0.1	31.3	80.0	0.0	
40	C	Dan Heimos	6-11/215	Fr.	Will be asked to contribute in the paint.						
33	F	Marques McCarty	6-5/190	Fr.	Was redshirted last year to gain seasoning.						
12	G	Jake Muhlheisen	6-4/185	Fr.	Local product can play either guard spot.						
2	G	John Robinson	6-1/195	Sr.	3.1	1.0	1.8	25.4	80.0	20.0	
	G	Corey Simms	6-5/200	Fr.	Likely to get time early at shooting guard.						
44	F/C	John Turek	6-9/215	Fr.	Could help at power forward or center.						

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Cookie Belcher*	6-4/205	16.4	5.1	4.4	44.9	74.4	33.6
F	Steffon Bradford*	6-6/240	12.8	8.1	0.8	60.3	57.0	0.0
C	Kimani Ffriend*	6-11/220	13.8	8.2	0.9	62.3	45.5	—
G	Rodney Fields*	6-2/210	5.5	2.2	1.7	45.4	72.1	38.5

Schedule

N20 N. Carolina A&T	D15 Sam Houston St.	J16 Oklahoma	F9 Kansas State
N24 Winthrop	D22 at Minnesota	J19 at Texas	F13 Missouri
N28 Tex.-San Antonio	D29 at Pacific	J23 at Oklahoma St.	F16 at Iowa State
D5 Wofford	J2 Savannah State	J26 Iowa State	F20 at Texas A&M
D2 Western Illinois	J5 at Missouri	J30 Texas Tech	F24 Kansas
D8 Oral Roberts	J9 at Kansas	F5 at Colorado	F27 Baylor
			M2 at Kansas State

BIG EAST

BY KEN DAVIS

The league's two-division, 16-game conference schedule finally has hit the cycle everyone dreaded. And it could create some serious backlash from the paying public.

No St. John's vs. Syracuse game? No UConn vs. Syracuse? No St. John's vs. Georgetown?

Are you kidding?

Unfortunately, no. The Big East consists of two seven-team divisions. Annually, teams meet each divisional opponent on a home-and-home basis and then play four games against teams from the other division. When the league expanded to 14 teams and this scheduling format was adopted, the problems were obvious. But the flaws of the format will sink in this season because some of the most popular matchups are missing.

Ken Davis, *The Hartford Courant*

Predictions

East	West
1. Boston College*	1. Georgetown*
2. Providence*	2. Syracuse*
3. UConn*	3. West Virginia
4. Miami*	4. Notre Dame
5. Villanova	5. Seton Hall
6. St. John's	6. Pittsburgh
7. Virginia Tech	7. Rutgers

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Troy Bell, Boston College	6-1	171	Jr.
G	John Linehan, Providence	5-9	165	Sr.
F/G	Preston Shumpert, Syracuse	6-6	198	Sr.
F	Caron Butler, Connecticut	6-7	235	So.
F	Mike Sweetney, Georgetown	6-8	260	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Kevin Braswell, Georgetown	6-2	190	Sr.
G	Darius Lane, Seton Hall	6-4	208	Sr.
F	Darius Rice, Miami	6-10	205	So.
F	Anthony Glover, St. John's	6-6	225	Sr.
F	Ryan Humphrey, Notre Dame	6-8	233	Sr.

Player of the Year

Troy Bell, Boston College

Newcomer of the Year

Jonathan Hargett, G, West Virginia

Honor Roll

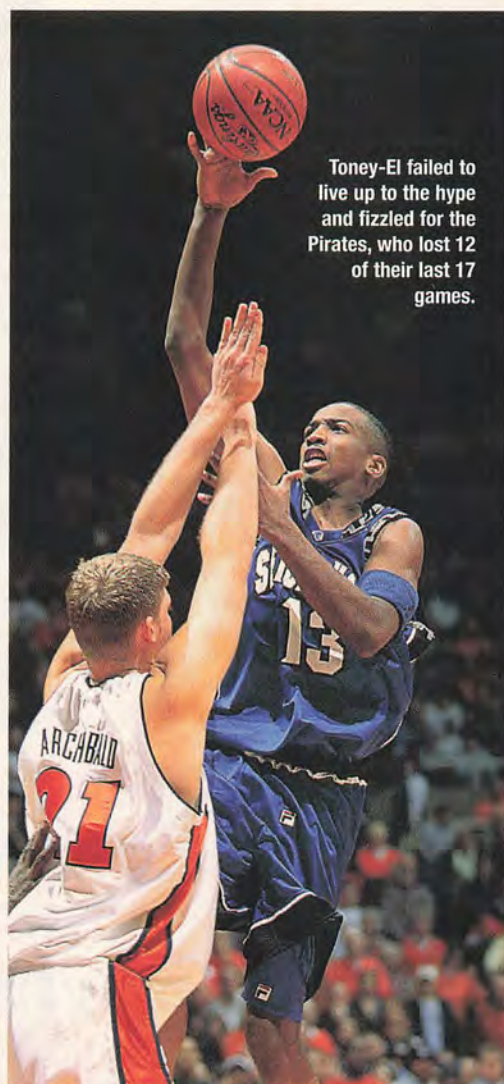
Best shooter: Preston Shumpert, Syracuse
Best rebounder: Ryan Humphrey, Notre Dame
Best playmaker: Kevin Braswell, Georgetown
Best defender: John Linehan, Providence
Best dunker: Kueth Duany, Syracuse
Best under 6-0: Andre Barrett, Seton Hall
Best 7-0 or taller: Billy Celuck, Syracuse
Most versatile: John Salmons, Miami
Most flamboyant: Caron Butler, Connecticut
Best NBA prospect: Ryan Humphrey, Notre Dame

The timing couldn't be worse. With the resurgence of Boston College, Providence and Georgetown last season, the games involving those teams could be among the highlights of this season. But, guess what? Providence won't play Georgetown unless the matchup occurs during the league tournament in Madison Square Garden.

Yes, something will be missing this season. But there's always that classic matchup between West Virginia and Virginia Tech to keep fans glued to their seats.

ASCENDING: West Virginia. The Mountaineers surprised many Big East observers last season with a 17-12 record and an 8-8 mark in the West Division. Just because Calvin Bowman has moved on doesn't mean that West Virginia fans have nothing to look forward to. Coach Gale Catlett's team might have the perfect mix to cook up some more surprises. Lionel Armstead and Tim Lyles return in the backcourt. Josh Yeager and Chris Moss anchor the front line. And freshman guard Jonathan Hargett promises to electrify crowds throughout the league.

DESCENDING: St. John's. The Red Storm posted a 2-8 record in February and March, turning a promising season into a 14-15 record with no postseason appearance. Then Omar Cook left for the NBA. Coach Mike Jarvis will be searching for a new point guard for the second consecutive season. He will have two good options in Marcus Hatten, a junior college transfer, and freshman Tristan Smith. Willie Shaw and Anthony Glover must live up to expectations every game. Even then, St. John's might be too weak up front.



Toney-EI failed to live up to the hype and fizzled for the Pirates, who lost 12 of their last 17 games.

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Michael Bradley, Villanova. The Wildcats didn't have a memorable season, but Bradley, who skipped his senior year for the NBA, had one of those individual performances that should be remembered for years. He led the nation in field-goal percentage (69.2), and he was second in the Big East in scoring (20.8) and rebounding (9.8). Seven-foot freshman Chris Charles, the first signee

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Troy Bell	Boston College	20.4
Preston Shumpert	Syracuse	19.5
Darius Lane	Seton Hall	16.9
Caron Butler	Connecticut	15.3
Lionel Armstead	West Virginia	14.3
Name	School	RPG
Rashod Kent	Rutgers	9.3
Ryan Humphrey	Notre Dame	9.0
Chris Moss	West Virginia	7.9
Caron Butler	Connecticut	7.6
Mike Sweetney	Georgetown	7.4
Brooks Sales	Villanova	6.2

Name	School	APG
Kevin Braswell	Georgetown	6.1
Brandin Knight	Pittsburgh	5.5
Andre Barrett	Seton Hall	5.5
Tim Lyles	West Virginia	5.5
Taliek Brown	Connecticut	4.9
Name	School	FG%
Ryan Humphrey	Notre Dame	50.5
Anthony Glover	St. John's	49.4
Lionel Armstead	West Virginia	45.9
Troy Bell	Boston College	45.9
Preston Shumpert	Syracuse	43.7

of the Jay Wright era at Villanova, will get a chance to contribute immediately. Charles is raw, extremely talented and should be an impact player some day. But don't expect him to be Bradley this season.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Uka Agbai, Boston College. Last season, Troy Bell got the headlines for the Eagles. Ryan Sidney was the league's top sixth man. And coach Al Skinner received praise for leading the school's turnaround. But what about the guy in the middle? Agbai is a 6-8, 245-pound bruiser. He simply has gotten better each season, and the Eagles couldn't have made such a dramatic improvement in their record without a force inside. Agbai averaged 9 points and 4 rebounds. Quite simply, when he was on the floor, BC was a better team.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER:

Marcus Toney-El, Seton Hall. Perhaps it was hard to sparkle in a recruiting class that included Eddie Griffin and Andre Barrett. Perhaps it was unfair to judge Toney-El for a season that included so many distractions. But he simply didn't live up to his billing. Toney-El was supposed to create matchup problems for opponents, but after starting the first 20 games of the season, he found himself coming off the bench for the last 11. He scored a season-high 14 points against Illinois in December but went scoreless in three of his last four games.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Ricky Stokes, Virginia Tech. His overall record in two seasons is 24-34. At some point, the Hokies will be expected to make a move in the Big East. Stokes had a honeymoon season last year, his first in the conference. Things were tough, as expected. Tech finished 2-14 in conference games, last in the East Division and missed the Big East tournament in New York. There might be more victories this season, but there's no reasonable hope for a jump in the standings. That means another early end to the season. Perhaps most disappointing is the lack of a Big East-level recruiting class.

BEST BETS: The coaches eventually will get their way, and the Big East will find a way to include all 14 teams in the conference tournament in New York, starting in 2003. ... Six teams, one more than last season, will advance to the NCAA Tournament. But none will get past the Sweet 16. ... Providence guard John Linehan will become the first Big East player to record a triple-double consisting of points, assists and steals. ... Villanova coach Jay Wright will have extraordinary recruiting success in Philadelphia and New York, the first step in leading the Wildcats to national prominence again.

TSN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

- 1. Syracuse:** PG Billy Edelin, part of school's biggest haul in years, should have an immediate impact.
- 2. Villanova:** New coach Jay Wright grabbed F Chris Charles away from Seton Hall.
- 3. Georgetown:** F Harvey Thomas could be a star in waiting. Craig Esherick also added backcourt shooters.
- 4. West Virginia:** G Jonathan Hargett has the total package and will fill some seats at the Coliseum.
- 5. Providence:** Tim Welsh's staff reloads with six-man class led by F Rob Sanders.
- 6. Notre Dame:** Chris Thomas, Indiana's Mr. Basketball, should have no trouble running the offense.
- 7. Pittsburgh:** Freshman G Carl Krauser should be a lift to offense and bring a smile to Ben Howland.
- 8. St. John's:** Can JC transfer Marcus Hatten replace Omar Cook, or will Tristan Smith need to help?
- 9. Connecticut:** Ben Gordon eventually will be a scoring threat, but rest of class looks forgettable.
- 10. Boston College:** G Jermaine Watson might be ready to contribute, but big men might be projects.
- 11. Seton Hall:** The Pirates will need scoring from G/F John Allen.
- 12. Miami:** Coach Perry Clark, who has four starters returning, simply added depth.
- 13. Rutgers:** Ricky Shields, Juel Wiggan lead big class that will have many opportunities to contribute.
- 14. Virginia Tech:** Hokies' best additions were JC transfers Eric Branham and Terry Taylor.

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
EAST								
Boston College*	13	3	27	5	17	0	10	5
Providence*	11	5	21	10	13	3	8	7
St. John's	8	8	14	15	11	5	3	10
Miami+	8	8	16	13	12	4	4	9
Villanova+	8	8	18	13	12	3	6	10
Connecticut+	8	8	20	12	16	2	4	10
Virginia Tech	2	14	8	19	6	9	2	10
WEST								
Notre Dame*	11	5	20	10	12	4	8	6
Georgetown*	10	6	25	8	13	3	12	5
Syracuse*	10	6	25	9	15	2	10	7
West Virginia+	8	8	17	12	12	4	5	8
Pittsburgh+	7	9	19	14	13	4	6	10
Seton Hall+	5	11	16	15	11	5	5	10
Rutgers	3	13	11	16	8	7	3	9

*Received NCAA bid. +Received NIT bid.



Ryan Humphrey

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

TEAM STATS

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Boston College	32	45.4	70.9	35.3	36.4	14.5	10.2	3.0	13.2	79.6
Georgetown	33	43.7	66.1	33.2	44.9	16.6	9.8	6.0	16.7	78.0
Notre Dame	30	46.2	68.8	38.4	40.5	17.6	6.6	5.9	14.5	77.9
Villanova	31	49.5	68.0	31.9	36.9	16.8	6.8	4.4	18.4	76.6
Providence	31	44.6	71.9	40.0	36.4	16.3	9.2	5.5	15.1	76.1
Seton Hall	31	41.4	64.1	32.9	41.2	15.8	7.0	7.6	13.9	74.4
West Virginia	29	44.8	68.9	31.8	40.6	14.4	5.6	3.4	16.4	73.8
St. John's	29	44.1	62.4	31.7	36.3	14.9	9.7	2.9	16.3	73.5
Connecticut	32	46.5	70.0	34.2	38.5	13.9	8.0	3.8	15.0	73.4
Syracuse	34	43.6	71.5	33.5	35.7	16.0	9.6	6.0	13.0	72.8
Miami	29	41.3	71.7	34.6	35.3	14.1	8.9	4.7	15.0	70.3
Pittsburgh	33	45.5	61.7	32.9	35.5	15.0	7.1	3.7	15.5	68.1
Virginia Tech	27	41.3	65.4	32.1	34.6	12.2	8.2	4.6	18.7	65.6
Rutgers	27	44.2	59.3	37.3	35.4	13.3	5.0	3.6	14.5	65.3

Opponents' stats

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Pittsburgh	33	42.7	67.6	33.9	34.1	13.7	6.6	3.8	15.1	65.3
Rutgers	27	44.6	68.4	32.8	32.2	13.0	7.4	4.2	13.0	65.8
Providence	31	40.0	67.3	29.8	36.4	11.8	8.1	3.2	17.7	66.1
Boston College	32	43.8	63.3	33.5	34.6	11.8	6.3	4.1	19.2	66.5
Syracuse	34	40.9	65.4	32.2	38.4	15.1	6.1	3.1	16.9	67.5
Georgetown	33	38.8	68.2	34.3	35.6	14.4	8.8	4.6	17.8	67.5
Miami	29	43.0	70.7	34.6	37.3	13.5	7.5	5.0	19.1	67.7
Connecticut	32	42.1	69.6	33.2	32.6	14.6	7.3	3.4	15.3	68.3
Notre Dame	30	39.3	66.2	31.4	38.7	14.4	6.9	3.3	13.5	69.3
St. John's	29	44.9	69.3	36.3	36.3	13.8	7.5	4.4	18.8	72.7
West Virginia	29	40.9	65.4	31.6	37.6	14.9	8.0	4.3	13.6	73.8
Seton Hall	31	41.6	64.8	34.7	44.3	15.0	7.1	4.0	14.3	73.9
Virginia Tech	27	44.6	70.2	32.3	35.5	15.8	8.3	3.5	15.1	74.7
Villanova	31	43.1	69.3	33.4	33.3	15.3	9.8	3.0	14.0	74.9

1. Boston College

National Rank: 18

Schedule

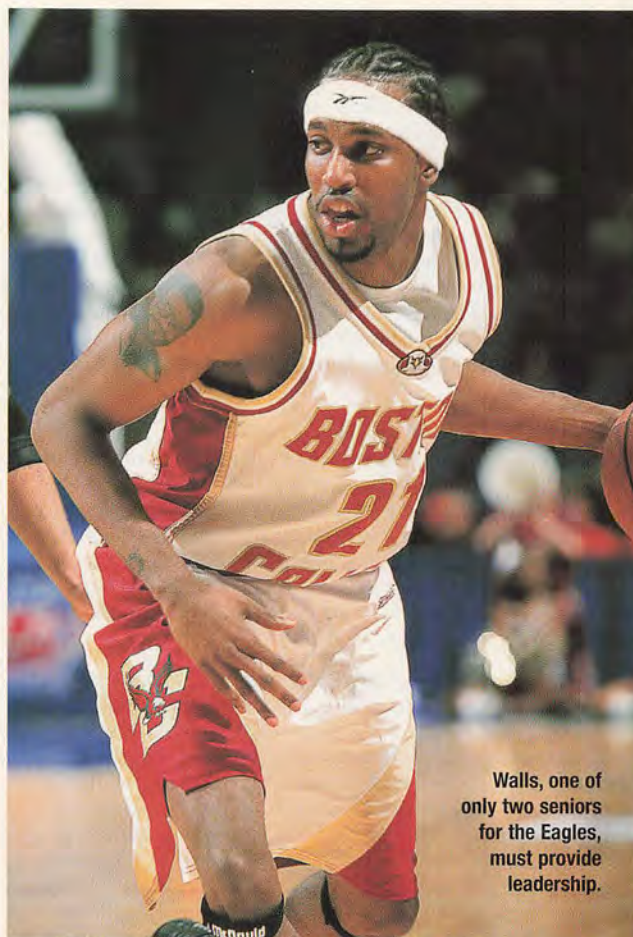
N18	Boston University
N21	New Hampshire
N24	Penn State
N28	at St. Bonaventure
D1	at Michigan
D4	Morris Brown
D8	Massachusetts
D11	Iowa State
D16	Holy Cross
D20-22	Rainbow Classic
D31	at Seton Hall
J5	Pittsburgh
J9	at Villanova
J12	Georgetown
J17	St. John's
J20	Virginia Tech
J24	Duke
J29	at Miami
F2	at Providence
F6	at Virginia Tech
F10	Miami
F13	Providence
F16	at Connecticut
F18	at St. John's
F23	Villanova
F25	Connecticut
M3	at Syracuse

FRONT COURT: The Eagles didn't make their last-to-first turnaround with great guard play alone. BC had some warriors inside for a change, doing the dirty work and giving the Eagles the balance they needed to win the East Division. The guys up front were simply a bunch of unknown soldiers, and it wasn't their fault Troy Bell got all the attention. The good news is that Uka Agbai, Kenny Walls and Brian Ross are back. The bad news is that Jonathan Beerbohm, who provided a lot of energy during his senior year, has completed his eligibility. Agbai is coming off a sophomore season in which he emerged as a reliable force. The Eagles could use more scoring and rebounding from Agbai, but as long as he stays consistent and plays good defense, his value will stay high. Walls is a swingman who brings tremendous athleticism. He is one of only two seniors, so coach Al Skinner will expect leadership from him. Ross, slowed by injuries last season, can play center or power forward. Freshmen Nate Doornekamp and Kirsten Zollner add depth and size.

BACK COURT:

Bell can do a lot of damage by himself, but he needs a partner or two. Bell, the Big East Co-Player of the Year last season, will miss perimeter players Xavier Singletary and Kenny Harley. Still, Bell remains the top offensive threat in the conference. He can hit the 3, handle the ball and find open teammates, and he is one of the top free-throw shooters in the league. Ryan Sidney, who was one of the top scoring reserves in the conference last season, will be a welcome addition to the starting lineup, but the Eagles will miss the jump-start he provided off the bench. Freshman Jermaine Watson's development at point guard could ease Bell's ballhandling responsibilities.

STRATEGY: The Eagles answered all the critics last season. Now it's time to follow up their amazing year with a second strong season. With Bell leading the way and with two other starters back, Skinner doesn't need to change much. If they continue to refine their system—a perimeter-oriented offense that thrives on the 3-pointer and works the ball outside in—it only can bring more success, and perhaps a trip further into the NCAA Tournament will be in the cards. A second-round loss to Southern California cut the season short and should provide motivation for this squad. BC's perimeter attack is hard to match. With a stronger and deeper inside



Walls, one of only two seniors for the Eagles, must provide leadership.

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

game, the Eagles could become even more dangerous this season.

KEY TO THE SEASON: Bell is an All-American who will return as an even better player after competing for USA Basketball on the World Championship for Young Men team. Bell was a force on that team and should be ready for an outstanding junior season. The key for the Eagles again is the play of Bell's supporting cast. The Eagles must find someone to share the scoring load. Sidney should be the man for that role. Then someone else needs to fill the role Sidney held coming off the bench. The Eagles won't have to redefine a lot of roles. But getting everyone on the same page and committed to the same goal must be Skinner's priority. The Eagles will be a target this season, something they aren't accustomed to.

Eagles Data

Coach: Al Skinner (59-61, 4 years; 197-187 overall, 13 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Bill Coen (4 years), Ed Cooley (4), Pat Duquette (4).

2000-2001 record: 27-5. Big East East: 13-3/1st. Lost to USC in NCAA East second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 88.

Last league title: 2001 (East Division).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Chesnut Hills, Mass.

Website: www.bceagles.com

Home court: Silvio O. Conte Forum (8,606).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
00	F/C	Uka Agbai*	Queens Village, N.Y.	6-8/245	Jr.	9.1	3.9	0.7	53.1	68.4	—
2	G	Troy Bell*	Minneapolis	6-1/171	Jr.	20.4	4.3	4.2	45.9	85.7	39.1
34	F	Andrew Bryant	Denison, Texas	6-7/224	So.	Sat out all of last season.					
40	G	Adam DeMong	Glen Ellyn, Ill.	6-2/175	Jr.	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	70.0	0.0
13	F	Nate Doornekamp	Odessa, Ontario	6-11/245	Fr.	Averaged 25 ppg, 14 rpg in high school.					
3	G	Ludmil Hadjisotirov	Sofia, Bulgaria	6-2/200	So.	2.3	0.5	0.8	39.4	73.7	33.3
45	F	Brian Ross	North Quincy, Mass.	6-8/240	Sr.	2.9	1.7	0.3	52.5	46.2	58.3
5	G	Ryan Sidney	Ann Arbor, Mich.	6-2/195	So.	9.4	4.7	1.7	49.0	56.7	27.5
21	G/F	Kenny Walls*	San Francisco	6-5/194	Sr.	7.3	3.3	1.7	39.5	80.0	30.7
4	G	Jermaine Watson	Dorchester, Mass.	6-3/190	Fr.	Led Tabor Academy to 27-5 record last season.					
12	F	Kirsten Zollner	Hanover, Germany	7-1/260	Fr.	Has received praise for interior scoring ability.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Jonathan Beerbohm	Fairbury, Neb.	6-7/229	6.4	3.7	1.1	51.0	63.2	20.0
G	Kenny Harley*	Bronx, N.Y.	6-5/196	10.7	5.6	2.5	44.0	62.1	42.2
G	Xavier Singletary*	Washington, D.C.	6-6/212	11.7	5.2	1.8	40.4	67.6	31.1

2. Providence

National Rank: 28

FRONT COURT: It wasn't easy for coach Tim Welsh to say goodbye to forward Erron Maxey and center Karim Shabazz. They were more than the top scorer and rebounder, respectively, for the Friars last season. They were part of the foundation that helped Welsh establish his program in his first two seasons. But the Friars won't be hurting for bodies along the front line. Small forward Romuald Augustin, who established himself as a reliable starter last season, will lead the way. He is outstanding on the break and spent the summer refining his skills. Maris Laksa and Christopher Anrin will provide help on the wings. Marcus Douthit is the only returning low-post player, but he could be a major contributor after learning from Maxey and Shabazz last season and bulking up in the offseason.

BACK COURT: The Friars will have one of the top guard combinations in the conference with senior John Linehan and junior Abdul Mills back in the starting lineup. Linehan stepped out of the shadows with a sensational junior season. He not only quarterbacked the offense, he plays an extraordinary brand of defense that defines the Friars' press. Linehan begins the season ranked second all-time on the Providence steals list. Mills is a slasher who has become comfortable in his scoring role. Donell Allick and Sheiku Kabba head the list of reserves.

STRATEGY: The Friars won't sneak up on any opponents this season. But they don't need to after establishing their style and gaining confidence last year. Welsh stresses an up-tempo offense with plenty of 3-point shots, and fullcourt pressure defense that produces baskets from transition and steals. Linehan is at the center of that. And now Welsh has the depth and the role players to make the Friars even more successful. A second consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament is right around the corner.

Friars Data

Coach: Tim Welsh (48-42, 3 years; 118-65 overall, 6 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Steve DeMeo (3 years), Phil Seymore (1), Bob Walsh (1).
2000-2001 record: 21-10. Big East East: 11-5/2nd. Lost to Penn State in

NCAA South first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 125.

Last league title: 1994.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Providence, R.I.

Website: www.friars.com

Home court: Providence Civic Center (12,993).

Roster										*2000-2001 starter, bold names: projected starter		
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%		
10	G	Donell Allick	6-4/195	So.	Redshirted last season.							
34	F	Leland Anderson	6-7/245	So.	Transferred from Michigan.							
20	F	Christopher Anrin	6-7/220	So.	5.8	1.7	0.9	39.6	82.1	36.4		
4	F	Romuald Augustin*	6-7/205	Jr.	9.2	2.7	1.7	44.6	68.4	40.2		
21	F/C	Marcus Douthit	6-10/215	So.	5.4	4.0	1.0	48.3	75.0	—		
3	F	Ryan Gomes	6-7/235	Fr.	Was captain of HS team last two years.							
13	G	Sheiku Kabba	6-2/185	So.	4.6	1.5	1.7	47.0	63.6	46.5		
25	F	Tuukka Kotti	6-9/205	Fr.	Averaged 15.1 ppg for team in Finland.							
22	F	Maris Laksa	6-9/212	So.	9.0	3.2	1.2	41.0	88.2	45.8		
12	G	John Linehan*	5-9/165	Sr.	10.7	2.4	3.9	41.6	85.6	41.7		
11	G	Abdul Mills*	6-3/190	Jr.	10.9	3.0	2.9	40.3	62.7	35.5		
33	F	Rob Sanders	6-6/205	Fr.	Averaged 22 ppg, 10 rpg in high school.							
23	F	Garnett Thompson	6-9/215	Jr.	Transfer from Suffolk CC in New York.							

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Erron Maxey*	6-6/195	11.4	6.4	0.7	47.5	68.6	28.6
G	Chris Rogers	6-4/180	2.5	1.6	1.5	41.1	81.3	40.5
C	Karim Shabazz*	7-2/230	8.9	7.4	1.6	55.8	63.8	—

Schedule

N24	Columbia	D30	Central Conn.	J19	at Miami	F13	at Boston College
N28	Brown	J2	at Villanova	J22	Rutgers	F19	Villanova
D1	at Rhode Island	J5	Syracuse	J26	at St. John's	F23	at Virginia Tech
D3	at South Carolina	J7	at Texas	J30	at West Virginia	F26	Miami
D8	Geo. Washington	J12	St. John's	F2	Boston College	M2	at Notre Dame
D19	Sacred Heart	J16	Connecticut	F5	at Connecticut		
				F9	Virginia Tech		

3. Connecticut

National Rank: 31

FRONT COURT: Caron Butler was just trying to fit in as a freshman with the Huskies last season. In the process, he led UConn in scoring, steals and rebounding. After a summer with USA Basketball, Butler wants to be all he can be. That's good news for the Huskies, who struggled through a mediocre season and missed the NCAA Tournament. They could use a dominating Butler to turn things back in the right direction. Look for coach Jim Calhoun to turn Butler loose on the wing. Butler might be more of a ballhandler, too, given his terrific passing ability. Calhoun hopes Johnnie Selvie can be more consistent in his second season and Scott Hazelton can bounce back after a medical redshirt season (foot). The center spot is wide open. Justin Brown and freshman Emeka Okafor will do battle there.

BACK COURT: Taliek Brown survived a rocky freshman season. It's never easy for a rookie to move into the starting point guard position, and Brown had to fill the spot left vacant by Khalid El-Amin. By the end of the season, however, Brown had improved, a promising sign for this year. Tony Robertson has a chance to win the starting spot at shooting guard, though he has given the Huskies a big boost off the bench and might remain in that role. There is a lot of optimism surrounding freshman Ben Gordon. Calhoun says he thinks Gordon can help at both guard spots. When the Huskies need a 3-point shooting threat, they will turn to sophomore Robert Swain.

STRATEGY: Nothing new here. Calhoun's system has proved to be successful. The Huskies will run and press and will try to make the most of athletic wingmen such as Butler. The plan calls for him to develop into a star and carry the Huskies. With a year under their belts and Gordon adding depth to the backcourt, the Huskies should get back to the NCAA Tournament.

Huskies Data

Coach: Jim Calhoun (349-142, 15 years; 599-279 overall, 29 years; 24-12 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1999).
Assistant coaches: Dave Leitao (8 years), Tom Moore (7), George Blaney (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 20-12. Big East

East: 8-8/T3rd. Lost to Detroit in NIT second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 20.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Storrs, Conn.

Website: www.uconnhuskies.com

Home court: Harry A. Gampel Pavilion (10,027), Hartford Civic Center (16,294).

Roster										*2000-2001 starter, bold names: projected starter		
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%		
20	C	Justin Brown	7-0/245	Jr.	1.2	1.2	0.1	51.7	30.8	0.0		
12	G	Taliek Brown*	6-1/185	So.	8.1	2.5	4.9	43.0	54.5	25.0		
3	F	Caron Butler*	6-7/235	So.	15.3	7.6	3.1	43.5	75.4	30.4		
		G Ben Gordon	6-2/185	Fr.	Expected to be a significant contributor.							
		F Mike Hayes	6-8/215	Jr.	JC recruit is power forward candidate.							
21	F	Scott Hazelton	6-8/210	Fr.	Redshirted last year.							
	C/F	Emeka Okafor	6-9/240	Fr.	Will get competition from Justin Brown.							
32	G	Tony Robertson	6-2/200	Jr.	Has given the team a lift off the bench.							
44	F	Johnnie Selvie	6-7/235	Sr.	10.9	5.5	0.3	54.7	67.0	—		
2	G	Robert Swain	6-4/205	So.	1.5	0.5	0.2	42.9	—	57.1		
30	G/F	Shamon Tooles	6-5/210	So.	0.1	0.3	0.1	50.0	0.0	—		
		F Chad Wise	6-5/190	Fr.	Was starting QB at Lonohe (Ark.) High.							
35	G	Mike Woodward	6-5/215	Jr.	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	50.0	—		

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Albert Mouring*	6-3/190	15.1	3.2	1.7	43.7	88.9	37.4
F	Edmund Saunders*	6-8/220	9.9	7.2	0.9	53.0	67.9	33.3
F/C	Wane Souleymane*	6-11/240	4.6	4.8	0.7	48.2	59.1	—

Schedule

N19	Vanderbilt	J2	at Virginia Tech	J19	North Carolina	F11	Villanova
N26	New Hampshire	J5	Miami	J23	St. John's	F16	Boston College
D2-3	BB&T Classic	J7	Oklahoma	J26	at Arizona	F19	at Georgetown
D8	Northeastern	J10	Virginia Tech	J30	at Rutgers	F23	West Virginia
D11	at Massachusetts	J13	at Villanova	F2	at Miami	F25	at Boston College
D21	Quinnipiac	J16	at Providence	F5	Providence	M2	Seton Hall
				F9	at St. John's		

4. Miami

National Rank: 41

FRONT COURT: The Hurricanes welcome four of five starters back from last season. Center Dwayne Wimbley is the only starter who isn't back, but the team will be better off with 6-9 senior Elton Tyler in the lineup. Tyler, who missed last season for academic reasons, started all 34 games in 1999-2000, averaging 10.1 points and 5.5 rebounds. He has shot 54.4 percent over his career. Forwards Darius Rice and James Jones welcome Tyler to a front line that should be one of the most athletic and entertaining in the nation. Rice is coming off a tremendous freshman season, and Jones is a perfect fit for coach Perry Clark's system. Recruits Rafael Berumen and Wil Frisby add considerable depth.

BACK COURT: It's hard to pin John Salmons down to a position. He has played everywhere but center for the Hurricanes. But because of a crowded frontcourt, the best way to utilize the 6-7 Salmons is to put him on the wing and let him do a bit of everything. That's what he did last season. With Michael Simmons back to run the point, the Hurricanes are in good hands. He takes care of the ball and is a solid free-throw shooter. Sophomore Marcus Barnes, an explosive scorer off the bench (he finished in double figures nine times and scored 20 or more points in three games), will push for playing time at both guard spots.

STRATEGY: The Hurricanes weren't far from an NCAA Tournament bid last season, and that's a credit to Clark. With young players learning a new system, no one expected Miami to have as much success as it did. With experience and familiarity on their side this season, the Hurricanes should be much better. Clark likes his teams to get up and down the court. And defense, the Miami trademark under former coach Leonard Hamilton, hasn't been forgotten. If Tyler comes back without any rust, the Hurricanes will flirt with the top 25 rankings.

Hurricanes Data

Coach: Perry Clark (16-13, 1 year; 201-158 overall, 12 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Dwight Freeman (6 years), Greg Gary (1), Brock Kantrow (1).

2000-2001 record: 16-13. Big East

East: 8-8/T3rd. Lost to Auburn in NIT first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 68.

Last league title: 2000 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Coral Gables, Fla.

Website: www.hurricanesports.com

Home court: Miami Arena (15,388).

Roster		*2000-2001 starter, bold names: projected starter								
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
4	G	Marcus Barnes	6-2/200	So.	7.2	1.2	1.9	32.3	74.0	30.5
12	F/C	Rafael Berumen	6-9/255	Jr.	Averaged 18 ppg in junior college.					
13	G	Paulo Coelho	6-2/185	Jr.	Coming back from a torn ACL.					
14	F	Rodrigue Djahue	6-7/255	So.	4.1	2.7	0.4	43.5	53.1	0.0
34	F	Wil Frisby	6-8/220	So.	Shot 57.8 at Fresno City College.					
33	F	James Jones*	6-8/211	Jr.	11.9	5.9	1.2	42.8	81.1	47.1
20	G	Danny Marakovits	6-4/185	So.	0.6	0.0	0.2	50.0	25.0	0.0
12	G	Brandon Okpalobi	6-2/180	So.	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	50.0	—
21	F	Darius Rice*	6-10/205	So.	14.1	4.9	1.1	39.6	72.0	33.9
5	G/F	John Salmons*	6-7/200	Sr.	13.3	6.0	4.0	47.4	79.3	35.2
1	G	Michael Simmons*	6-0/185	Jr.	2.5	1.7	2.5	35.5	80.0	34.3
25	F/C	Elton Tyler	6-9/235	Sr.	Missed all of last season (academics).					
2	G	Kahleef Watson	6-2/185	Fr.	Adds depth to the backcourt.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Joe Gordon	6-2/180	Transferred to Southern Indiana.					
G/F	Leroy Hurd	6-7/205	Transferred to Texas-San Antonio.					
C	Dwayne Wimbley*	6-9/245	7.3	4.9	0.9	44.8	64.0	—

Schedule

N18-21 Para. Jam Trn.	D18 Florida A&M	J15 Pittsburgh	F17 at Rutgers
N24 Lafayette	D22 Charlotte	J19 Providence	F23 Notre Dame
N26 Florida Atlantic	D27 LSU*	J26 at Villanova	F26 at Providence
N29 Howard	D30 St. Francis (Pa.)	J29 Boston College	M2 Virginia Tech
D3 Fla. International	J2 at Georgetown	F2 Connecticut	*at New Orleans
D8 at Texas A&M	J5 at Connecticut	F6 Villanova	
D15 Indiana	J8 at St. John's	F10 at Boston College	
	J13 at Virginia Tech	F13 St. John's	

Wildcats Data

Coach: Jay Wright (first year; 122-85 overall, 7 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Brett Gunning (1st year), Joe Jones (4), Fred Hill (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 18-13. Big East East: 8-8/T3rd. Lost to Minnesota in

NIT first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 44.

Last league title: 1997 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Philadelphia.

Website: www.villanova.com

Home court: The Pavilion (6,500); First Union Center (21,000).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
44	F	Marcus Austin	6-8/215	Fr.	Expected to contribute right away.					
	F	Andreas Bloch	6-8/215	So.	2.1	0.8	0.2	37.0	50.0	41.9
21	G	Reggie Bryant	6-3/215	So.	5.7	1.7	1.5	41.8	94.6	28.6
22	G	Gary Buchanan*	6-3/205	Jr.	13.4	4.8	3.3	38.9	94.2	34.1
15	F/C	Chris Charles	7-0/215	Fr.	Could provide some bulk up front.					
24	G	B.J. Johnson	6-3/193	Sr.	0.3	0.0	0.1	33.3	0.0	0.0
32	F	Brooks Sales*	6-10/245	Sr.	9.0	6.2	1.6	59.9	75.5	0.0
3	G	Derrick Snowden*	6-0/160	So.	4.2	1.4	2.0	43.6	69.2	34.3
12	F	Andrew Sullivan	6-7/200	Jr.	1.7	1.3	0.6	36.7	55.6	12.5
55	C	Jair Veldhuis	6-10/240	So.	0.3	0.2	0.0	33.3	—	—
5	F	Ricky Wright	6-7/215	Jr.	8.6	4.2	0.7	58.4	70.9	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Michael Bradley*	6-10/245	20.8	9.8	2.6	69.2	59.0	35.3
F	Johnny Holley	6-6/180	2.1	1.5	0.5	35.1	66.7	14.3
F	Aaron Matthews	6-6/230	Transferred.					
G	Jermaine Medley*	6-0/165	10.3	1.8	3.8	36.4	53.3	31.7

Schedule

N18 Delaware State	D11 Stony Brook	J20 at St. John's	F16 Georgetown
N24 Dayton	D22 VMI	J26 Miami	F19 at Providence
N27 LaSalle	J2 Providence	J30 Virginia Tech	F23 at Boston College
D1 Bucknell	J6 at Notre Dame	F2 at Pittsburgh	F28 Syracuse
D5 at Pennsylvania	J9 Boston College	F6 at Miami	M3 St. John's
D8 at Temple	J13 Connecticut	F9 UCLA	
	J15 at Virginia Tech	F11 at Connecticut	

5. Villanova

National Rank: 64

FRONT COURT: Forget about replacing Michael Bradley. It can't be done. Bradley led the nation in field-goal percentage and had one of the great seasons in Big East history before forfeiting his senior season and moving on to the NBA. Now it is up to Brooks Sales, the only scholarship senior on the roster, to provide leadership and rebounding. Sales, who got off to a good start last season before he was sidelined by a broken right hand, must give Villanova a post presence, especially with so much inexperience surrounding him. Ricky Wright, who started when Sales was injured, will help patrol the interior. If they can get some support from freshmen Marcus Austin and Chris Charles, Villanova will hold its own inside.

BACK COURT: Gary Buchanan is like a cool breeze on a humid day. His ability to hit free throws is refreshing in an age when most players neglect the skill. Buchanan led the nation in free-throw shooting, hitting an NCAA record 73 straight. He brings versatility to the lineup and is a 3-point threat. Buchanan will team with sophomore point guard Derrick Snowden. Both must focus on reducing turnovers. With small forward unsettled, look for coach Jay Wright to use Reggie Bryant in a three-guard lineup.

STRATEGY: Wright, who preaches defense and rebounding, is off to a good start as a recruiter. When he starts getting his own players into his system, Villanova will re-emerge as a Big East power. Sales has the opportunity to set the tone for a new era. Wright wants him to rebound and score, in addition to being a leader off the court. Wright knows the importance of those qualities from his successful days at Hofstra. If the Wildcats, an offensive-oriented group, can overcome turnovers and improve defensively, there's a chance they could make some noise in the league.

6. St. John's

National Rank: 78

FRONT COURT: Familiar faces will surround the basket this season. Most familiar will be senior forward Anthony Glover, who gives St. John's its inside muscle. He has had an inconsistent career, flashing spurts of greatness but balancing those highlights with uninspired play during his junior season. St. John's needs his leadership this season. Swingman Willie Shaw had his ups and downs as a freshman. With more peaks than valleys, Shaw could become one of the most exciting players in the conference. Sharif Fordham, who played strong down the stretch last season, brings solid defense to the wing. Alpha Bangura and Kyle Cuffe have the potential to start. But the center spot remains a huge question with Donald Emanuel, Mohamed Diakite, Abe Keita and Curtis Johnson all in the picture.

BACK COURT: Omar Cook took the Big Apple by storm from his first start last season. He was everything New Yorkers could dream of in a point guard. Unfortunately for the Red Storm, Cook's dreams included heading to the NBA after his freshman season. Things won't be the same without him. Junior college transfer Marcus Hatten probably will get the longest look at point guard. Freshman Tristan Smith will push Hatten for playing time. Scoring will come from swingmen Shaw and Fordham.

STRATEGY: Youth no longer will be an excuse for the Red Storm. Coach Mike Jarvis will rely less on rookies and more on experience this season. But without Cook directing traffic, it might take awhile for the team to develop chemistry and teamwork. Even with Cook, the Red Storm players weren't always on the same page last season. This year, St. John's has a roster with several interchangeable parts, which will enable Jarvis to go big or small. The Red Storm always will attack and never back down under Jarvis, but this appears to be a transitional season for the program.

Red Storm Data

Coach: Mike Jarvis (67-32, 3 years; 320-173, 16 years; 7-8 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Kevin Clark (3 years), Mike Jarvis Jr. (3), Dermon Player (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 14-15. Big East

East: 8-8/3rd.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 29.

Last league title: 1992 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Jamaica, N.Y.

Website: www.redstormsports.com

Home court: Alumni Hall (6,008).

Madison Square Garden (19,876).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
15	G	Alpha Bangura	6-6/215	Jr.	6.4	2.6	0.5	45.5	75.0	15.4
25	F	Kyle Cuffe*	6-8/210	So.	8.3	4.4	0.2	51.9	69.9	0.0
44	C	Mohamed Diakite	6-11/210	So.	1.3	1.5	0.2	44.8	45.5	—
5	G	Christian Diaz	6-3/175	Jr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
33	F	Donald Emanuel	6-8/230	Sr.	3.4	2.7	0.3	51.3	58.3	22.2
3	G	Sharif Fordham*	6-4/200	Sr.	4.8	4.9	1.2	43.6	43.5	0.0
22	F	Anthony Glover*	6-6/225	Sr.	13.7	5.9	1.1	49.4	56.5	25.0
	G	Marcus Hatten	6-6/225	Jr.	Could see time at both guard spots.					
52	C	Curtis Johnson	7-3/320	So.	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	—
4	C	Abe Keita	6-11/235	Jr.	0.9	1.1	0.1	53.8	30.0	—
	F	Eric King	6-6/215	Fr.	Brings athleticism to both forward spots.					
11	G	Jon Scheiman	6-1/185	Jr.	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0
23	G	Willie Shaw*	6-6/185	So.	13.8	3.3	0.9	38.9	69.9	37.6
	G	Tristan Smith	6-1/180	Fr.	Averaged 24 ppg at Amityville (N.Y.) High.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Omar Cook*	6-1/190	15.3	3.0	8.7	36.0	74.2	30.9

Schedule

N17	Stony Brook	D22	Wake Forest	J20	Villanova	F16	Virginia Tech
D1	Fordham	J2	at Pittsburgh	J23	at Connecticut	F18	Boston College
D8	at Manhattan	J5	West Virginia	J26	Providence	F24	at Duke
D11	at Niagara	J8	Miami	J29	at Seton Hall	F27	Notre Dame
D16	Hofstra	J12	at Providence	F3	at Virginia Tech	M3	at Villanova
D20	St. Francis (N.Y.)	J17	at Boston College	F9	Connecticut		
				F13	at Miami		

Hokies Data

Coach: Ricky Stokes (24-34, 2 years).
Assistant coaches: Mark Kline (2 years), Randy Peele (2), Steve Lytton (2).
2000-2001 record: 8-19. Big East
 East: 2-14/7th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 149.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Blacksburg, Va.

Website: www.hokiesports.com

Home court: Cassell Coliseum (10,052).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	G	Eric Branham	5-11/180	Jr.	Likely to step in at the point.					
15	C/F	Carlton Carter*	6-11/205	Sr.	7.8	6.2	0.8	43.5	66.7	23.5
5	G	Brian Chase*	5-10/170	Jr.	12.9	2.9	2.1	44.2	81.0	45.8
32	G/F	Carlos Dixon*	6-7/185	So.	11.0	3.6	2.9	33.6	74.3	34.7
45	F/C	Mibindo Dongo*	6-9/245	Sr.	5.9	4.8	0.2	55.6	52.8	—
00	G	Joe Hamilton	6-6/185	Sr.	8.9	2.9	1.5	42.1	66.2	19.2
22	G	Bryant Matthews*	6-7/200	So.	9.1	5.2	1.8	40.4	63.4	26.7
10	F	Rico Murray	6-1/166	Sr.	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	100.0	0.0
	F	Harding Nana	6-8/225	Fr.	Stokes likes his shooting potential.					
	F	C.J. Pigford	6-7/220	Fr.	First-team, all-state selection in N. Carolina.					
21	F/C	Jon Smith	6-8/220	Jr.	3.6	2.8	0.7	56.1	53.8	42.9
	C	Terry Taylor	6-8/280	Jr.	Adds size, experience to frontcourt.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Chris Exilus	6-2/180	Transferred.					
G	Drew Smith	6-3/190	Left team.					

Schedule

N17	Mt. St. Mary's	D7-8	Thorpe Classic	J10	at Connecticut	F6	Boston College
N20	Rhode Island	D12	W. Michigan	J13	Miami	F9	at Providence
N24	at Old Dominion	D15	Radford	J15	Villanova	F13	at West Virginia
N27	East Carolina	D27	at Florida St.	J20	at Boston College	F16	at St. John's
N29	Northeastern	J2	Connecticut	J26	at Syracuse	F23	Providence
D1	at Virginia	J5	Seton Hall	J30	at Villanova	F27	Rutgers
				F3	St. John's	M2	at Miami

7. Virginia Tech

National Rank: 179

FRONT COURT: Unlike last season, coach Ricky Stokes has some options. The Hokies needed bodies up front last year and simply didn't have the depth or talent to be competitive in the conference. Seniors Mibindo Dongo and Carlton Carter are returning starters who shouldn't have to shoulder as much of the load as they did last season. Carter started 15 of 20 games after becoming eligible last December and received captain status. He can handle the low post or face the hoop and step out and hit the 3-pointer. Dongo hasn't posted huge numbers, but his work ethic inside is a plus. Jon Smith gives the Hokies the ability to play their transition game. At 6-8, 280, junior college transfer Terry Taylor figures to have the biggest impact among several newcomers.

BACK COURT: Unlike last season, Brian Chase and Carlos Dixon should be able to concentrate on playing their natural wing positions. The addition of JC transfer Eric Branham, a pure point guard, will mean more scoring for Chase, Tech's career leader in 3-point percentage, and more freedom for Dixon's game. Bryant Matthews, who can fill a need from shooting guard to power forward, will be expected to pick up where he left off. He finished second on the team in rebounding and third in scoring.

STRATEGY: Stokes wants to play an up-tempo game, pushing the ball in transition and pressing on defense. That requires numbers, depth and experience. With the entire starting lineup back from last season and a large group of newcomers on the roster, Stokes should be able to move in the right direction. The Hokies want to be more aggressive. But in order to run, they must rebound. There are plenty of wing men to make this system work. If Branham lives up to expectations, the final piece to the puzzle would be improved play by the big men. The Hokies should be improved, but they still have a long way to go.

1. Georgetown

National Rank: 16

Schedule

N19 Georgia*
 N21 Coastal Carolina
 N24 Towson State
 N26 Grambling State
 N28 Bethune-Cookman
 D1 Houston
 D6 at South Carolina
 D10 Morgan State
 D15 TBA
 D20 Virginia
 D29 at UCLA
 J2 Miami
 J5 at Rutgers
 J12 at Boston College
 J16 Seton Hall
 J19 Pittsburgh
 J21 at Notre Dame
 J26 at Pittsburgh
 J28 Syracuse
 F2 West Virginia
 F9 Notre Dame
 F12 at Seton Hall
 F16 at Villanova
 F19 Connecticut
 F24 at Syracuse
 F27 at West Virginia
 M2 Rutgers
 *at Springfield, Mass.

FRONTCOURT: What's a Hoya? For many fans, the answer is big man. From Patrick Ewing to Alonzo Mourning to Dikembe Mutombo to Ruben Boumtje Boumtje, the best teams assembled by John Thompson and Craig Esherick have featured a force in the middle. Boumtje Boumtje moved on to the NBA, and this season's top center candidates, Wesley Wilson and Courtland Freeman, aren't exactly cut from that same mold. But the Hoyas have plenty of talent and depth returning to the floor. Starters Mike Sweetney and Gerald Riley return from last year's Sweet 16 team. Sweetney not only made the conference All-Rookie team, he received honorable mention all-league status as well. Sweetney, after a summer on the USA Basketball World Championship Team for Young Men, should show off a more sharpened game and be more explosive. Victor Samnick, Omari Faulkner and Darrel Owens will push Riley for playing time. Keep an eye on freshman Harvey Thomas. He might move to the front of the class before the season is over.

BACKCOURT: Esherick and his staff were feeling terrific about the starting backcourt until mid-August, when shooting guard Demetrius Hunter said he was transferring to live closer to his 2-year-old daughter in Las Vegas. Hunter gave the Hoyas a 3-point threat they rarely enjoyed in recent years and shared the leadership role with point guard Kevin Braswell. Already the school leader in steals, Braswell is poised to become the all-time leader in assists. Braswell must perform as he did last season and carry a bigger load in Hunter's absence. Freshman Drew Hall, who was going to be groomed slowly behind Braswell, might be forced into action sooner because of Hunter's departure. Combo guard Tony Bethel is another possibility. He has a competitive style that reminds the coaching staff of former Hoyas great Charles Smith.

STRATEGY: Esherick says his goal is "to exhaust teams by constantly running fresh bodies at them." Even without Hunter, Boumtje Boumtje, Lee Scruggs, Nathaniel Burton and Anthony Perry, Esherick will have that rare advantage of numbers again and will be able to use the fullcourt style he went with last season. But Esherick must have the confidence to use his younger players. If they respond, the result could be the same unselfish attitude that produced so much success last season.



JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Wilson (above) and Freeman must help replace Boumtje Boumtje, who led the team in blocked shots and was second in rebounding.

KEY TO THE SEASON: Last season, the Hoyas controlled the domain around their basket. They led the Big East in rebounding and rebounding margin—they averaged more than nine boards more than opponents—and averaged six blocks per game. The rebounding average this season isn't likely to be as outstanding, so Georgetown must find a way to offset that decrease. Before Hunter's departure, Esherick expected this team to score easier and more often. That would be quite an accomplishment because the Hoyas averaged 78 points a game last season, second in the conference. If the newcomers struggle, Riley might be moved to big guard. One way or another, a more potent offense is needed.

Hoyas Data

Coach: Craig Esherick (52-33, 3 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Mike Riley (17 years), Ronny Thompson (3), Chip Simms (2).

2000-2001 record: 25-8. Big East West: 10-6/T2nd. Lost to Maryland in NCAA West semifinal.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 30.

Last league title: 1997.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Washington, D.C.

Website: www.guhoyas.com

Home court: MCI Center (20,600).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
22	G	Tony Bethel	Ft. Washington, Md.	6-2/	Fr.	Expected to contribute at both backcourt spots.					
12	G	Kevin Braswell*	Baltimore	6-2/190	Sr.	11.5	3.4	6.1	37.8	74.2	30.2
3	F	Omari Faulkner	Memphis	6-6/215	So.	1.2	0.5	0.2	37.5	50.0	0.0
2	F	Courtland Freeman	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	6-9/222	Jr.	2.7	3.2	1.0	35.7	46.2	—
5	G	Drew Hall	Silver Spring, Md.	6-2/	Fr.	Could be asked to produce right away.					
20	F/G	Darrel Owens	Napoleonville, La.	6-6/	Fr.	Said to be versatile and an excellent ballhandler.					
32	F	Gerald Riley*	Milledgeville, Ga.	6-6/205	So.	6.7	2.8	0.9	35.7	73.1	26.1
10	G/F	RaMell Ross	Fairfax, Va.	6-4/185	So.	2.0	1.3	0.3	31.6	70.6	0.0
13	F	Victor Samnick	Doala, Cameroon	6-8/208	Jr.	3.8	3.4	0.7	40.5	64.1	28.6
34	F	Mike Sweetney*	Oxon Hill, Md.	6-8/260	So.	12.8	7.4	1.8	51.6	61.9	—
15	F	Harvey Thomas	Frederick, Md.	6-8/	Fr.	Combines 3-point range with rebounding skill.					
50	C	Wesley Wilson	Vallejo, Calif.	6-11/235	Jr.	5.5	3.3	0.3	48.2	55.4	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Ruben Boumtje Boumtje*	Younde, Cameroon	7-0/257	9.1	6.8	0.9	51.7	71.8	—
G	Nathaniel Burton	Washington, D.C.	6-4/218	5.1	3.5	1.3	56.9	60.3	50.0
G	Demetrius Hunter*	Las Vegas	6-2/208	Transferred to UNLV.					
G	Anthony Perry	Jersey City, N.J.	6-3/186	6.7	2.3	1.1	41.1	67.6	35.8
F	Lee Scruggs	Franklin, N.C.	6-11/215	7.5	4.4	0.6	37.6	75.0	32.9

2. Syracuse

National Rank: 30

FRONTCOURT: Over the past 10 years, a Syracuse player scored 30 or more points in a game on 15 occasions. Preston Shumpert is on the list four times—all for last season. Shumpert, who had 80 3-pointers, returns for his senior season, and his presence should guarantee continued good times in Syracuse. Shumpert will be expected to carry even more of the scoring load without Damone Brown crashing the boards and cleaning up on second-chance points. If Jeremy McNeil and Billy Edelin don't improve their play inside, 7-0 freshman Craig Forth will be there to provide a push. Senior Ethan Cole also might be in the mix.

BACKCOURT: Shumpert will benefit from the return of shooting guard DeShaun Williams, who is the team's other primary outside scoring threat and keeps defenses honest enough for Shumpert to get good looks. Williams will be the leader of a backcourt rotation that will miss point guard Allen Griffin, who closed out his career with a solid senior season. Coach Jim Boeheim is likely to turn to freshman Billy Edelin to run the show. Edelin led Oak Hill Academy in Virginia to the mythical national high school championship. Sophomore James Thues provides depth.

STRATEGY: Boeheim has been doing it his way for 25 years. Why change now? Last year, the Orangemen had to replace three starters, and they did it with a splash, emerging from the pack of unranked teams to finish in the Top 20 again with a 25-9 record. It marked the 23rd time under Boeheim that Syracuse reached 20 wins. The Orangemen will deal with the loss of Brown and Griffin by turning to Shumpert and Williams, a recruiting class that is one of the deepest in school history and by playing its typical tough zone defense. With the unusual benefit of depth, Syracuse should be a contender for the West Division title and another trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Orangemen Data

Coach: Jim Boeheim (600-206, 25 years; 32-21 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Bernie Fine (25 years), Mike Hopkins (6), Troy Weaver (1).

2000-2001 record: 25-9. Big East

West: 10-6/T2nd. Lost to Kansas in NCAA Midwest second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 64.

Last league title: 2000 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.

Site: Syracuse, N.Y.

Website: www.suathletics.com

Home court: Carrier Dome (33,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
35	C	Billy Celuck	7-0/213	Sr.	4.3	3.9	0.6	57.7	47.4	—
32	F	Ethan Cole	6-9/244	Sr.	1.0	1.2	0.1	36.8	66.7	—
33	F	Greg Davis	6-7/219	So.	0.2	0.3	0.3	16.7	—	0.0
13	G/F	Kueth Duany	6-6/190	Jr.	5.5	3.3	0.9	43.7	64.0	27.6
14	G	Billy Edelin	6-4/195	Fr.	Expected to step in at point guard.					
00	C	Craig Forth	7-0/255	Fr.	19.2 ppg, 14.5 rpg, 5 bpg as a senior.					
4	F	Mark Konecny	6-10/235	Fr.	24.8 ppg, 11.6 rpg as a senior.					
10	G	Andrew Kouwe	6-0/170	So.	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
34	F	Jeremy McNeil*	6-8/257	So.	2.5	3.1	0.1	65.3	56.8	—
5	G/F	Josh Pace	6-6/190	Fr.	A four-year all-state pick in Georgia.					
3	F/G	Preston Shumpert*	6-6/198	Sr.	19.5	5.9	1.7	43.7	76.3	38.6
15	G	James Thues	5-10/172	So.	1.6	0.5	1.3	38.7	48.1	28.6
1	F	Hakim Warrick	6-8/185	Fr.	15.6 ppg, 13 rpg as a senior.					
21	G	DeShaun Williams*	6-3/202	Jr.	12.4	2.9	3.4	36.9	75.6	33.5

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Damone Brown*	6-9/200	16.4	8.8	1.9	49.2	79.1	28.6
G	Allen Griffin*	6-1/186	10.8	3.3	6.5	38.3	71.1	24.4

Schedule

N12-23 Preseason NIT	D16 at Georgia Tech	J12 at West Virginia	F4 West Virginia
N18 Binghamton	D20 South Florida	J14 Notre Dame	F10 Pittsburgh
N27 Colgate	D29 Buffalo	J19 at Tennessee	F17 at Notre Dame
N29 Cornell	J2 Rutgers	J22 at Pittsburgh	F21 at Seton Hall
D2 at Albany	J5 at Providence	J26 Virginia Tech	F24 Georgetown
D4 Hofstra	J8 Seton Hall	J28 at Georgetown	F28 at Villanova
		F2 at Rutgers	M3 Boston College

3. West Virginia

National Rank: 49

FRONTCOURT: The Mountaineers have used talented senior Chris Moss at a variety of positions throughout his career based on the team's needs. This season, he should be able to concentrate on playing power forward, his natural position. Coach Gale Catlett will expect Moss to do some damage in place of Calvin Bowman, a first team All-Big East selection last season. Moss could turn into a monster. But he will need help from John Oliver and Chris Garnett, the top contenders at center, to replace the points and rebounds Bowman contributed. Oliver started 10 games last season, but Garnett, a transfer from Eastern Kentucky, could have a bigger impact if he effectively uses his 6-10, 260-pound body. Freshman Tyrone Sally is expected to push junior Josh Yeager for playing time at small forward.

BACKCOURT: Nothing soothes the soul of a college coach like an experienced backcourt, so Catlett should be feeling pretty good with Lionel Armstead and Tim Lyles returning to Morgantown. With those starters back, highly touted freshman Jonathan Hargett can take his time learning the system. Expect Hargett to become an important and exciting part of the rotation. Armstead will provide a consistent 3-point threat. Lyles, who begins his third season as the starting point guard, has demonstrated great court vision.

STRATEGY: The Mountaineers recently have played decent man-to-man defense and like to push the ball. They won't have Bowman around for big-game heroics, but West Virginia didn't reach the NIT as a one-man team. Though Bowman was outstanding, Armstead and Lyles developed chemistry in the backcourt, and Moss continued his steady play. Catlett can build around those solid three starters and mix in an excellent recruiting class that includes Hargett, Garnett, Sally and guard Drew Schifino. West Virginia could be the league's most surprising team.

Mountaineers Data

Coach: Gale Catlett (431-261, 23 years; 557-305, 29 years; 7-11 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Drew Catlett (6 years), Lester Rowe (3), Chris Cheeks (1).

2000-2001 record: 17-12. Big East

West: 8-8/4th. Lost to Richmond in NIT first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 116.

Last league title: 1989.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Morgantown, W. Va.

Website: www.msnsportsnet.com

Home court: WVU Coliseum (14,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
30	G	Lionel Armstead*	5-11/175	Sr.	14.3	3.2	2.3	45.9	82.1	39.2
50	C	Ales Chan	7-1/230	Jr.	1.1	1.7	0.2	35.0	55.5	—
24	F	Warren Coates	6-6/175	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
10	G	Jeff Davis	5-10/175	Sr.	0.4	0.0	0.1	33.3	50.0	0.0
21	C	Chris Garnett	6-10/260	So.	Transferred from Eastern Kentucky.					
	G	Jonathan Hargett	6-0/180	Fr.	Will be part of the backcourt rotation.					
33	G	Jay Hewitt	6-6/190	So.	3.0	1.3	0.7	38.0	45.2	29.2
12	G	Tim Lyles*	5-11/190	Jr.	11.5	3.6	5.5	32.5	74.1	22.3
31	F/C	Chris Moss*	6-8/225	Sr.	10.7	7.9	0.9	50.9	61.0	—
45	C	John Oliver	6-9/235	Sr.	3.3	3.2	0.7	50.0	65.1	100.0
	F	Tyrone Sally	6-7/190	Fr.	Could get minutes on the wing.					
	G	Drew Schifino	6-3/180	Fr.	Brings size, athleticism, shooting ability.					
1	G	Tobias Seldon	6-0/180	So.	0.5	0.6	0.1	14.3	50.0	20.0
22	F	Josh Yeager*	6-6/190	Jr.	8.1	3.8	2.0	48.7	69.2	31.1

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Brooks Berry	6-6/210	6.7	3.1	1.4	38.5	78.0	33.7
F	Calvin Bowman*	6-9/220	17.6	9.7	1.1	54.1	69.1	0.0

Schedule

N16 UNC Asheville	D22 at Tennessee	J23 Marshall*	F16 Pittsburgh
N23-24 Hsp. Fund Cl.	D28-30 Fiesta Bowl Cl.	J27 Rutgers	F20 at Notre Dame
D5 at J. Madison	J5 at St. John's	J30 Providence	F23 at Connecticut
D8 Fla. International	J9 Notre Dame	F2 at Georgetown	F27 Georgetown
D15 Robert Morris	J12 Syracuse	F4 at Syracuse	M2 at Pittsburgh
D19 Duquesne	J16 at Rutgers	F9 Seton Hall	*at Charleston, W.Va.
	J18 at Seton Hall	F13 Virginia Tech	

4. Notre Dame

National Rank: 50

FRONTCOURT: It might take two players to replace Troy Murphy's points and rebounds this season. In another era, Murphy probably would have stayed in school four seasons and rewritten the Irish record books. Instead, he chose to bypass his senior season and head to the NBA. The departure of the Big East's Co-Player of the Year will allow power forward Ryan Humphrey to take center stage. Harold Swanagan and David Graves were part-time starters who will have a chance to increase their time this season. Junior Jere Macura could battle for time, giving the Irish a nice rotation—but still no Murphy.

BACKCOURT: The Irish also will miss Martin Ingelsby, who might have been the most overlooked player in the conference last season. His leadership at point guard was just as important to the Irish as Murphy's play up front. Coach Mike Brey will turn the controls over to freshman point guard Chris Thomas, who was Mr. Basketball in Indiana last year. Junior Matt Carroll returns at shooting guard, where he provided 3-point shooting and an all-around offensive game. Sophomore Torrian Jones might be in line for more playing time, and Chris Markwood is back after missing all of last season with a knee injury. But look for Thomas and Carroll to be the backcourt anchors.

STRATEGY: Brey made a big statement in his first season at South Bend. The Irish returned to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1990. That will be a hard act to follow without Murphy and Ingelsby, but Brey says he thinks the Irish can return to postseason play. The Irish are likely to continue playing a physical style and will look to get Humphrey involved down low. The newcomers will learn quickly that Brey looks closely at defensive intensity when determining playing time. Notre Dame held conference opponents to 39.7 percent shooting, tops in the league.

Fighting Irish Data

Coach: Mike Brey (20-10, 1 year; 119-62 overall, 6 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Sean Kearney (1 year), Anthony Solomon (1), Lewis Preston (1).
2000-2001 record: 20-10. Big East

West: 11-5/1st. Lost to Mississippi in NCAA Midwest second round.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 17.
Last league title: 2001 (West Division).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: South Bend, Ind.
Website: www.und.com
Home court: Joyce Center (11,418).

Roster										*2000-2001 starter, bold names: projected starter			
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%			
13	G	Matt Carroll*	6-6/210	Jr.	12.4	5.0	3.8	46.7	83.6	40.9			
12	F	Jordan Cornette	6-9/200	Fr.	Honorable mention all-state pick in Ohio.								
34	F	David Graves	6-6/208	Sr.	13.8	4.7	2.3	42.4	75.7	37.8			
4	F	Ryan Humphrey*	6-8/233	Sr.	14.1	9.0	1.4	50.5	52.1	33.3			
20	G	Torrian Jones	6-4/185	So.	1.3	0.7	0.6	40.6	43.8	25.0			
15	F	Jere Macura	6-9/226	Jr.	1.9	1.6	0.3	38.5	47.6	7.1			
51	G	Chris Markwood	6-4/190	So.	Missed last season with a knee injury.								
42	F	Harold Swanagan*	6-7/252	Sr.	4.1	3.4	0.6	48.8	63.5	0.0			
5	G	Charles Thomas	5-11/160	Jr.	1.8	0.2	0.3	45.5	62.5	50.0			
1	G	Chris Thomas	6-1/165	Fr.	Has big shoes to fill: Martin Ingelsby's.								
50	C	Tom Timmermans	6-11/248	So.	0.9	0.7	0.1	21.4	70.0	0.0			

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Martin Ingelsby*	6-0/175	8.2	2.8	6.4	45.6	79.6	46.4
C	Ivan Kartelo	6-11/247	Transferred to Purdue.					
F	Troy Murphy*	6-10/237	21.8	9.2	2.1	47.1	76.6	34.9

Schedule

N16	New Hampshire	D22	at Canisius	J19	Kentucky	F17	Syracuse
N19	Cornell	D27	Alabama*	J21	Georgetown	F20	West Virginia
N24-26	Hawaii Pac. Cl.	D30	Colgate	J26	Seton Hall	F23	at Miami
N28	Army	J6	Villanova	J30	Pittsburgh	F27	at St. John's
D1	at DePaul	J9	at West Virginia	F3	at Seton Hall	M2	Providence
D4	at Indiana	J12	at Pittsburgh	F6	Rutgers	*at New Orleans	
		J14	at Syracuse	F9	at Georgetown		
				F14	at Rutgers		

5. Seton Hall

National Rank: 79

FRONTCOURT: It's too bad new coach Louis Orr doesn't have any eligibility remaining from his Syracuse days. The Pirates could use a power forward with his rebounding and scoring abilities. It's a good thing for Orr that he was at Siena last season and didn't see those positively sensational nights when Eddie Griffin and Samuel Dalembert gave Seton Hall so much promise. Both have moved on to the pros. Forward Reggie Garrett also is gone, leaving Charles Manga and Greg Morton as the only returning players near the basket. Manga, a 6-10 center, started as a freshman before backing up Dalembert the past two seasons. Morton, a blue-collar player throughout his career, might become a bigger offensive threat. Marcus Toney-El is back at small forward.

BACKCOURT: The Pirates will look to sophomore point guard Andre Barrett and senior shooting guard Darius Lane for leadership, scoring, and guidance—especially in the early part of the season. Barrett was handed the ball as a freshman and impressed everyone with his poise and quickness. Lane struggled with his shot early last season, but when he is on, there isn't a better 3-point shooter in the conference. Ty Shine is back for his senior season, a plus for Seton Hall's depth. He can play either guard position. When Shine isn't spelling Barrett at the point, the two can share the floor and give the Pirates two quarterbacks with scoring ability. Freshman John Allen will be a big boost at small forward or shooting guard.

STRATEGY: Orr knows the Big East from his days as an assistant at Syracuse and Providence. He'll stress the importance of controlling the boards and will be a big help in teaching the big men. His top task will be improving the Pirates defensively and setting a tone that emphasizes intensity and teamwork. There wasn't a lot of trust in the locker room last season.

Pirates Data

Coach: Louis Orr (1st year; 20-11 overall, 1 year).
Assistant coaches: Brian Nash (1st year), William Garrett (1st year), John Dunne (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 16-15. Big East
 West: 5-11/6th. Lost to Alabama in NIT

first round.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 9.
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: South Orange, N.J.
Website: www.shupirates.com
Home court: Continental Airlines Arena (20,029).

Roster										*2000-2001 starter, bold names: projected starter			
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%			
32	F/G	John Allen	6-5/197	Fr.	Expected to contribute right away.								
4	F	Mauricio Branwell	6-8/205	Fr.	High-energy player who is active on boards.								
12	G	Andre Barrett*	5-8/159	So.	10.2	3.3	5.5	36.3	69.8	30.1			
14	G	Raheem Carter	6-3/204	Jr.	Walk-on who could provide depth.								
23	F	Damion Fray	6-7/215	So.	Sat out last season (academics).								
22	C	Alexander Gambino	7-0/235	Fr.	Orr needs him to add more muscle.								
2	G	Desmond Herod	6-4/168	Jr.	1.8	0.9	0.4	26.0	40.0	17.2			
30	G	Darius Lane*	6-4/208	Sr.	16.9	4.8	2.4	40.6	67.3	39.5			
31	F	Charles Manga	6-10/241	Sr.	2.0	1.8	0.1	51.1	50.0	—			
50	F	Greg Morton	6-7/205	So.	1.9	3.8	0.7	38.6	63.2	0.0			
0	G	Ty Shine	6-0/181	Sr.	9.6	1.9	2.6	36.8	69.8	31.9			
13	F	Marcus Toney-El*	6-6/197	So.	6.7	4.0	2.0	41.1	50.0	22.4			

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Samuel Dalembert*	6-11/232	8.3	5.7	0.3	56.5	55.6	—
F	Reggie Garrett	6-6/196	1.3	2.4	0.7	50.0	57.1	0.0
F	Eddie Griffin*	6-9/205	17.8	10.8	1.6	42.9	73.4	32.0

Schedule

N16	at San Francisco	D22	at Michigan State	J18	West Virginia	F16	Illinois
N19-21	Maui Inv.	D27-28	ECAC Festival	J26	at Notre Dame	F21	Syracuse
N29	Monmouth	D31	Boston College	J29	St. John's	F23	at Rutgers
D5	at Rider	J5	at Virginia Tech	F3	Notre Dame	F26	Pittsburgh
D11	Fairleigh Dickinson	J8	at Syracuse	F7	at Pittsburgh	M2	at Connecticut
D16	LaSalle	J11	Rutgers	F9	at West Virginia		
		J16	at Georgetown	F12	Georgetown		

6. Pittsburgh

National Rank: 95

FRONT COURT: There's something to be said for versatility and longevity. Pittsburgh had those qualities in forward Ricardo Greer and center Isaac Hawkins, and their departures leave the Panthers searching for adequate replacements. That won't be easy. Greer and Hawkins accounted for more than 40 percent of Pitt's rebounding and nearly 40 percent of the scoring last season. Junior forward Donatas Zavackas is the only returning starter. Zavackas must improve his rebounding and mix some inside contributions to his outstanding 3-point game. Senior Chad Johnson, an excellent defender and passer, will see his role expanded. Center Toree Morris has the size and potential to take the place of Hawkins, but his playing time will depend on his conditioning.

BACK COURT: Coach Ben Howland is happy to welcome back the starting duo of Brandin Knight and Julius Page. Add Jaron Brown, a sophomore who can play either guard spot, and this clearly becomes an area of strength for the Panthers. Knight, the team's floor general the past two seasons, played smart at the end of the season and now might be asked to score more. Page, who started 25 games as a freshman, can be dazzling with his drives and acrobatic dunks. Howland hopes to get production from freshman Yuri Demetris.

STRATEGY: The Panthers won seven of their last 10 games and are looking for a strong carryover. Howland must find new sources of scoring, but one theme will remain the same. Howland's teams always play good man-to-man defense. The Panthers held opponents to 65.3 points per game, best in the Big East. Offensively, Howland relies heavily on the decision-making abilities of his point guard, so Knight's distributing skills will be critical. If Demetrius and other newcomers score and rebound, Pitt could move up in the standings.

Panthers Data

Coach: Ben Howland (32-29, 2 years; 111-88 overall, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Jamie Dixon (2 years), Barry Rohrsen (2).

2000-2001 record: 19-14. Big East West: 7-9/5th. Lost to Mississippi State

in NIT second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 104.

Last league title: 1988.

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Pittsburgh.

Website: www.pittsburghpanthers.com

Home court: Fitzgerald Field House (6,798).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
4	G	Jaron Brown	6-4/230	So.	4.8	2.4	1.5	46.0	54.0	13.6
3	G	Yuri Demetris	6-4/200	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					
15	G/F	Chad Johnson	6-5/215	Sr.	4.5	2.4	1.1	38.2	57.4	23.7
20	G	Brandin Knight*	6-0/175	Jr.	9.2	3.3	5.5	38.7	60.9	25.8
50	F	Ontario Lett	6-6/240	Jr.	Late addition could help fill holes at forward.					
21	F	Mark McCarroll	6-10/210	Fr.	Averaged 12.5 ppg, 8.5 rpg in high school.					
55	C	Toree Morris	6-10/280	So.	2.2	2.4	0.2	47.4	40.6	—
1	G	Julius Page*	6-3/180	So.	9.1	1.8	1.1	42.4	62.3	34.1
	G	Tony Tate	6-0/165	Fr.	Named all-county at N.J.'s Marist High.					
2	F	Chevon Troutman	6-7/230	Fr.	Named Mr. Pennsylvania Basketball.					
5	F	Donatas Zavackas*	6-8/225	Jr.	7.9	3.3	1.3	46.1	82.1	49.4

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Ricardo Greer*	6-5/220	16.6	7.4	2.8	48.5	68.5	28.3
F	Isaac Hawkins*	6-8/210	9.3	7.9	1.2	54.3	53.4	100.0
G/F	Zelimir Stevanovic	6-7/205	Left school.					

Schedule

D8 Penn State	J8 at Rutgers	F2 Villanova
N16 Morgan State	D15 Rhode Island	J12 Notre Dame
N18 Northern Arizona	D19 at Ohio State	J15 at Miami
N20 Robert Morris	D22 Duquesne	J19 at Georgetown
N23-25 Pitt Thanks. Cl.	D29 St. Francis (N.Y.)	J22 Syracuse
D1 Savannah State	J2 St. John's	J26 Georgetown
D5 St. Francis (Pa.)	J5 at Boston College	J30 at Notre Dame
		M2 West Virginia

Scarlet Knights Data

Coach: Gary Waters (1st year; 92-60 overall, 5 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Kevin Heck (1st year), Garland Mance (1st year), Larry DeSimpelare (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 11-16. Big East

West: 3-13/7th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 109.

Last league title: 1991 (Atlantic 10).

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: New Brunswick, N.J.

Website: www.athletics.rutgers.com

Home court: Brown Athletic Center (8,500).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
32	F	Sean Axani	6-7/220	So.	2.9	3.3	0.5	41.3	37.5	0.0
11	G	Jerome Coleman	6-2/190	Jr.	JC transfer was Waters' first recruit.					
5	C	Eugene Dabney*	6-10/225	Jr.	7.4	4.7	0.8	46.2	64.8	—
15	G	Connor Fox	6-1/170	Sr.	1.1	0.1	0.1	41.7	83.3	33.3
4	F	Shawn Hampton	6-7/235	Jr.	Transferred from Virginia Commonwealth.					
44	F	Rashod Kent*	6-6/275	Sr.	9.8	9.3	1.2	64.3	35.7	—
1	F	Herve Lamizana	6-10/215	So.	Sat out last season (academics).					
21	G	Jason McCoy	6-9/205	Fr.	A leaper, he averaged 4.1 bpg last year.					
23	F	Justin Piasecki	6-7/205	So.	0.7	0.2	0.3	66.7	—	0.0
3	G	Mike Sherrod*	6-2/180	So.	7.2	3.2	2.8	39.2	61.8	16.7
2	G	Ricky Shields	6-4/185	Fr.	Said to have vertical leap over 40 inches.					
24	F	Mike Thompson	6-7/220	Sr.	1.5	1.7	0.3	29.6	60.9	—
13	G	Juel Wiggan	6-3/195	Fr.	Brings physical strength to backcourt.					
55	C	Kareem Wright	6-9/285	Jr.	4.6	3.5	0.4	46.2	60.7	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Todd Billet*	6-0/180	Transferred to Virginia.					
F	Jeff Greer*	6-5/180	14.3	4.5	2.5	44.4	64.8	36.1

Schedule

N14-16 BCA Classic	D13 Hartford	J11 at Seton Hall	F14 Notre Dame
N24 Auburn	D15 Md.-Balt. County	J16 West Virginia	F17 Miami
N28 Stony Brook	D23 at Virginia	J22 at Providence	F21 at Pittsburgh
D1 Loyola (Md.)	D29 Princeton	J27 at West Virginia	F23 Seton Hall
D5 at LaSalle	J2 at Syracuse	J30 Connecticut	F27 at Virginia Tech
D8 Wagner	J5 Georgetown	F2 Syracuse	M2 at Georgetown
	J8 Pittsburgh	F6 at Notre Dame	

7. Rutgers

National Rank: 132

FRONT COURT: First-year coach Gary Waters inherits a strong stable of frontcourt players. All he has to do is find the best combination. Senior Rashod Kent, a legitimate Big East bruiser, figures to be in the equation after a junior season in which he almost averaged double digits in scoring and rebounding. He is the top returning scorer from last season's team and was fourth in the Big East in rebounding. Eugene Dabney started the most games at center last season but again will be pushed by Kareem Wright. Sophomore Sean Axani is the most experienced small forward. Shawn Hampton, a transfer from Virginia Commonwealth, can get the job done around the basket. Herve Lamizana, a 6-10 sophomore who sat out last season for academic reasons, might be the brightest addition.

BACK COURT: The Scarlet Knights face the adjustment of playing without Todd Billet, who departed after the coaching change in April. Sophomore point guard Mike Sherrod will use his quickness to jump-start the offense and make it difficult for opponents to press the Knights. Jerome Coleman, a transfer from Cecil (Md.) Community College and Waters' first recruit at Rutgers, should join Sherrod in the starting backcourt. Ricky Shields and Juel Wiggan are freshmen but should add depth on the wings.

STRATEGY: Waters isn't about to change the style that made him successful at Kent. Look for the Knights to pressure the ball and play much more aggressive defense than in the past. Sherrod seems the perfect fit for the up-tempo style that Waters used to win a school-record 24 games at Kent last season. If Kent and Dabney can get the job done on the boards, look for the Knights to become a much more exciting team. Rutgers is a recruiting class or two away from rising in the standings. But this season is important just for Waters to establish his system.

CONFERENCE USA

BY ZACK MCMILLIN

Twelve, apparently, was not enough. At least not for a pre-kindergarten conference bent on building a credible football league. That's why East Carolina and Texas Christian jump into Conference USA this season, further diluting an already muddled mix.

The league's bell cows are Cincinnati, Memphis and Louisville, but the latter programs have been stumbling of late. John Calipari, in his second year with Memphis, has the Tigers poised to return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1996, and Louisville's new boss, Rick Pitino, has injected life into the Cardinals' program. Bearcats coach Bob Huggins knows his supremacy will be challenged.

But the maverick coaches—let's not for-

get to add Billy Tubbs of TCU—do not run C-USA. Saint Louis and Charlotte have won the conference tournament titles the past two seasons, and Marquette has been transformed by third-year coach Tom Crean. James Green, of Southern Miss, was the C-USA Coach of the Year last season, and, at UAB, Murry Bartow has assembled the league's darkhorse team. At South Florida, the B.B. and Altron Show gets one more season to prove it is more than an off-Broadway hit.

Whither C-USA? With 14 teams, it's now a teenager. Expect some growing pains.

ASCENDING: Memphis. The Tigers have not been to the NCAA Tournament since that dreadful 1996 loss to Drexel, but the drought should end this season. In Dajuan Wagner and Kelly Wise, the Tigers have two All-American candidates; add to that mix possibly the best JC transfer in the nation (Chris Massie) and a player who could turn out to be the country's most improved player (Earl Barron), and the Tigers could well skip a few stages of a program's normal growth process.

DESCENDING: DePaul. As quickly as coach Pat Kennedy rebuilt the program, that's how fast fortunes have faded for the Chicago school. The Blue Demons finished last in the American Division last season, and they lost two of their top players—Bobby Simmons and Steven Hunter—to the pro ranks. There still is talent assembled in Lincoln Park, but this program is on the verge of getting lost in C-USA's depths.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Brian Wardle, Marquette. With apologies to Rodney White at Charlotte, Wardle leaves the biggest void in the league. He was Marquette's trigger-man for his final three seasons, and his clutch, gritty play defined Marquette. Dwayne Wade, who sat out last season as a partial qualifier, has wowed coaches and teammates in practice and should have a major impact at guard.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Linton Johnson, Tulane. Not many people outside C-USA know about Johnson, a versatile 6-8 jumping-jack. He developed a nice inside-outside game last season. Though he is not as talented as White, Johnson will occupy a role similar to the one White played at Charlotte last season as a freshman before he entered the NBA draft.



Because of the Blue Demons' losses and C-USA's new depth, Kennedy may be in for a long season.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Zack McMillin, (Memphis) Commercial Appeal
Mike DeCourcy, TSN

Predictions

American	National
1. Cincinnati*	1. Memphis*
2. Charlotte*	2. South Florida
3. Marquette	3. UAB
4. Louisville	4. Texas Christian
5. St. Louis	5. Tulane
6. DePaul	6. Southern Mississippi
7. East Carolina	7. Houston
	*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Steve Logan, Cincinnati	6-0	196	Sr.
G	Dajuan Wagner, Memphis	6-3	197	Fr.
F	Altron Jackson, South Florida	6-6	186	Sr.
F	Kelly Wise, Memphis	6-10	217	Sr.
F	B.B. Waldon, South Florida	6-8	210	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Cordell Henry, Marquette	5-10	160	Sr.
G	Jobey Thomas, Charlotte	6-4	190	Sr.
G	P.J. Arnold, UAB	6-5	205	Sr.
F	Will Campbell, UAB	6-8	245	Sr.
F	Linton Johnson, Tulane	6-8	205	Sr.

Player of the Year

Dajuan Wagner, Memphis

Newcomer of the Year

Dajuan Wagner, G, Memphis

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Jobey Thomas, Charlotte
Best rebounder: Kelly Wise, Memphis
Best playmaker: Cordell Henry, Marquette
Best defender: Immanuel McElroy, Cincinnati
Best dunker: Kelly Wise, Memphis
Best under (or right at) 6-0: Steve Logan, Cincinnati
Best 6-11 or taller: Earl Barron, Memphis
Most versatile: Immanuel McElroy, Cincinnati
Most flamboyant: Altron Jackson, South Florida
Best NBA prospect: Dajuan Wagner, Memphis

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER:

B.B. Waldon, South Florida. The forward has wonderful numbers and deserves credit for helping rejuvenate the USF program, but his game has not progressed since the first semester of his sophomore year. A voracious competitor, Waldon often sabotages his own best interests with silly plays and reckless emotion. He'll put up huge numbers again, but C-USA foes have come to appreciate the way Waldon contributes to their winning causes.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT:

Murry Bartow, UAB. He did an admirable job guiding the team to 17 wins last season, despite a combined 85 missed games from its roster. With Myron Ransom and Morris Finley back and P.J. Arnold, Will Campbell and Eric Batchelor in their senior seasons, much will be expected this season.

BEST BETS:

The league will have more non-conference success than last season, when the league was only 83-69 (.546) against other conferences, including 33-57 (.367) against teams from other top 10 leagues. ... Huggins and Pitino will say the

media is making too much of their rivalry, intensified in the offseason by the move of former UC assistant Mick Cronin to Pitino's staff at Louisville. ... Not nearly as much will be made of UAB-Cincinnati, despite the defection of Andy Kennedy from his alma mater to the Bearcats. ... Memphis forward Wise will average a double-double for the second straight season. ... Calipari will send a sub to the scorer's table when Wagner slips on defense, and then pull him back when Wagner drills a 25-footer. ... The Tigers will win more games than the Grizzlies, Memphis's newest hoops team. ... B.B. Waldon will foul out of a game. ... East Carolina will pull off an upset, and the victim's coach will complain about the difficult travel to Greenville, N.C. ... Immanuel McElroy will transform into a dependable offensive player for Cincinnati, and Fred Williams will emerge as one of the league's best shooters. ... Charlotte will lead the league in 3-pointers attempted. ... Alton Jackson and Memphis' Wagner will battle for the league scoring title. ... South Florida fans will come to appreciate the dunks of Jimmy Baxter, the C-USA high-jump champ who cleared 7-3 last track season. ... Pitino will be appalled by his team's inability to shoot the ball, but Louisville fans will come to appreciate the Cardinals' high-energy attack. ... Even with a new air-conditioning system installed, Fogelman Arena at Tulane still will be hell on visitors. And this season, the Green Wave might have the personnel to pull some of the upsets Fogelman has been famous for.

TSN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

- Memphis:** Dajuan Wagner, Chris Massie are likely pros. Duane Erwin, Anthony Rice are skilled.
- DePaul:** Eddy Curry opted for the NBA, but the team has a versatile class that can contribute.
- Marquette:** Travis Diener was a Parade All-American. Kevin Menard, Todd Townsend add athleticism.
- Louisville:** Rick Pitino got two from his new city. Inherited quicksilver G Carlos Hurt from Denny Crum.
- Cincinnati:** Jason Maxiell is the prize. Derek Hollman, a wide body Mississippi JC player, will help.
- Charlotte:** Combo G Mitchell Baldwin will help. Team also got swingmen Curtis Nash, Eddie Basden.
- TCU:** Billy Tubbs calls this his best, most complete class at the school.
- South Florida:** PG Brian Swift is the prize of this class, and he could start.
- Southern Mississippi:** Jasper Johnson was coveted by many.
- Saint Louis:** Big men John Seyfert, Kenny Brown and Ross Varner must adjust quickly.
- Tulane:** Coach Shawn Finney signed five perimeter players to help stoke his press-and-run system.
- UAB:** The team went the JC route to fill holes in hopes of getting an NCAA bid.
- Houston:** Transfers Kevin Gaines and Louis Truscott upgrade the talent level.
- East Carolina:** Class comes from France (Moussa Badiane) and in-state (Devin Boddie).

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
American Division								
Cincinnati*	11	5	25	10	11	3	14	7
Charlotte*	10	6	22	11	10	2	12	9
Marquette	9	7	15	14	10	6	5	8
St. Louis	8	8	17	14	11	4	7	9
Louisville	8	8	12	19	6	9	6	10
DePaul	4	12	12	18	8	8	4	10
National Division								
Southern Miss+	11	5	22	9	12	2	10	7
Memphis+	10	6	21	15	12	5	9	10
South Florida	9	7	18	13	11	2	7	11
UAB	8	8	17	14	10	5	7	9
Houston	6	10	9	20	6	7	3	13
Tulane	2	14	9	21	8	7	1	14

*Received NCAA bid. +Received NIT bid.



Demon Brown

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Alton Jackson	South Florida	18.9
Steve Logan	Cincinnati	17.6
B.B. Waldon	South Florida	17.1
Brandon Spann	Tulane	15.9
Kelly Wise	Memphis	15.3
Name	School	RPG
Kelly Wise	Memphis	10.1
Patrick Okafor	Houston	8.6
Will Campbell	UAB	8.1
Linton Johnson	Tulane	8.1
Cam Stephens	Charlotte	7.8
Name	School	APG
Imari Sawyer	DePaul	6.0
Brandon Spann	Tulane	4.8
Cordell Henry	Marquette	4.4
Demon Brown	Charlotte	4.0
Dominic Smith	Houston	3.8
Name	School	FG%
Will Campbell	UAB	55.6
B.B. Waldon	South Florida	54.3
Earl Barron	Memphis	54.1
Linton Johnson	Tulane	51.0
George Williams	Houston	50.7

TEAM STATS

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Charlotte	33	43.7	68.5	36.0	38.4	14.3	7.0	2.9	12.7	78.3
Memphis	36	43.7	63.5	34.2	39.9	15.5	6.5	5.1	13.8	75.1
South Florida	31	45.5	60.2	32.3	37.5	16.7	9.4	4.3	15.5	74.4
Cincinnati	35	44.4	69.7	35.6	34.7	12.8	5.7	3.3	10.8	73.9
Tulane	30	44.6	64.2	30.9	36.8	13.9	8.2	3.2	18.7	72.3
DePaul	30	43.9	67.6	33.5	37.7	14.6	5.3	3.6	14.5	72.3
UAB	31	42.5	64.9	32.2	41.1	12.7	6.7	4.0	15.1	72.1
Southern Mississippi	31	43.4	66.8	35.5	37.0	13.5	6.0	4.1	13.8	70.2
Saint Louis	31	45.6	69.8	38.6	35.5	13.5	6.6	3.6	14.5	70.1
Louisville	31	41.3	66.5	35.5	34.9	14.1	6.1	4.2	14.1	69.5
Marquette	29	43.0	71.1	34.2	34.1	11.2	5.0	2.3	13.6	65.6
Houston	29	41.6	69.1	29.1	37.2	11.1	5.7	2.6	15.9	65.4
Opponents' stats										
Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Southern Mississippi	31	40.6	65.2	31.0	33.9	9.8	5.9	2.9	14.2	62.5
Marquette	29	41.8	69.4	29.6	31.6	13.1	5.7	3.6	12.0	65.4
Cincinnati	35	43.0	63.9	33.9	35.5	11.7	4.4	3.9	15.7	65.5
Saint Louis	31	39.7	69.8	31.9	34.4	9.8	6.7	3.1	14.6	66.0
Memphis	36	40.9	66.5	32.8	36.4	12.4	6.4	3.8	16.0	67.9
UAB	31	40.4	65.5	31.1	37.2	13.4	6.6	3.6	14.5	69.6
South Florida	31	41.3	66.9	32.3	37.7	13.3	5.8	2.5	18.9	69.4
Houston	29	43.4	68.4	35.9	35.0	14.1	7.0	3.8	12.8	71.6
Charlotte	33	41.8	68.3	32.7	38.3	13.2	5.0	2.5	14.6	71.9
DePaul	30	43.2	71.7	38.5	35.9	15.1	7.1	3.2	12.3	74.0
Louisville	31	46.8	68.2	36.3	37.8	14.0	6.8	3.2	15.2	75.4
Tulane	30	48.0	68.2	38.3	35.4	15.8	10.0	3.0	15.3	80.9

1. Cincinnati

National Rank: 20

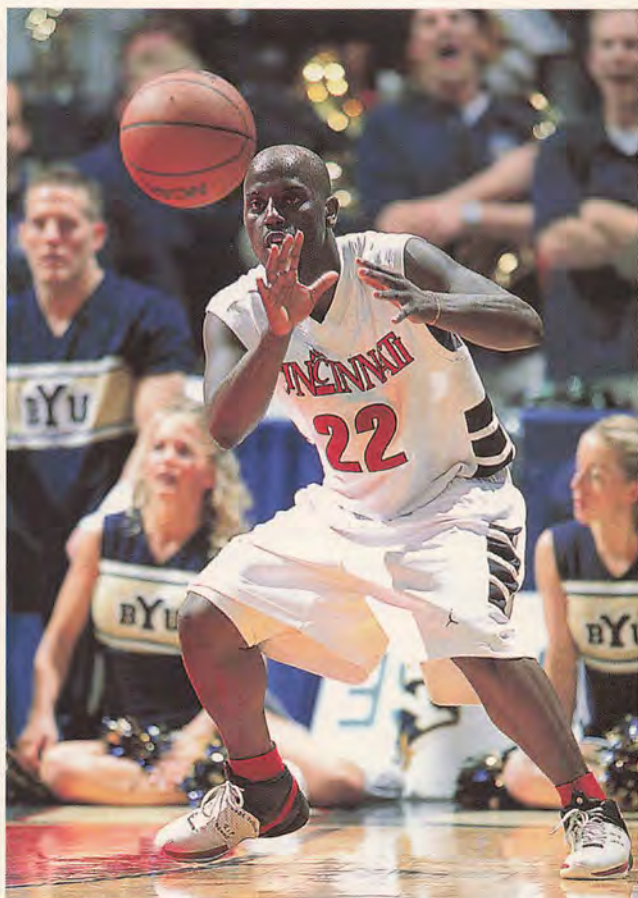
Schedule

N16	at Oklahoma State
N20	Wright State
N24	UNLV
N28	Dayton
D1	Duquesne
D8	Coppin State
D10	Toledo
D14	at Xavier
D17-22	Las Vegas Classic
D29	Akron*
J5	at East Carolina
J8	Charlotte
J12	at Houston
J16	DePaul
J19	Louisville
J22	at Saint Louis
J26	at South Florida
J29	East Carolina
F2	at Marquette
F6	at Charlotte
F9	at Wake Forest
F12	Saint Louis
F15	Southern Miss
F19	at DePaul
F22	Marquette
F27	at Louisville
M3	Memphis
*at Cleveland	

FRONTCOURT: The possible return of center Donald Little, who was dismissed from the team, featured a double-dose of uncertainty. There was the question of whether he would be back, and the question of why the Bearcats would bother. He showed occasional flashes but no consistency. If Little does not come back, the job falls to the steadier but less athletic B.J. Grove, who mostly delivered what was expected of him when coach Bob Huggins started him last year. Grove has great size and could become a reliable low-post scorer and solid rebounder if he plays more confidently. The Bearcats got little power from the power forward position last season, but that should change with freshman Jason Maxiell challenging returning starter Jamaal Davis and junior college recruit Derek Hollman. Maxiell is a dynamic athlete who can rebound above the rim. If he adapts quickly to Huggins' defensive demands, he could have a full-time job. Davis has been a poor rebounder and has not fought hard enough to get open shots, but in the last month he helped by focusing on defense.

BACKCOURT: With Kenny Satterfield gone to the NBA, Steve Logan seemed a natural replacement at point guard. But the Bearcats didn't want to move Logan back to the point, because that would have meant losing, in a sense, their two best players. Allowing Logan to be a scorer is essential. He is the only proven, reliable weapon. That's why Huggins chased down junior college recruit Taron Barker, a powerful playmaker who can defend the ball and should be able to drive well enough to open shots for Logan. Wings Leonard Stokes and Immanuel McElroy have enough ballhandling skill to get into the lane, but it's important the coaching staff stress the drive-and-kick game more this season than it did last. The Bearcats need more consistent shooting from Stokes, another player who could be outstanding if he believed in his talent.

STRATEGY: Though his most successful team, in 1992, relied heavily on backcourt pressure, Huggins no longer can stomach the open layups that are an inevitable side effect of that approach. He wants his teams to be solid in the halfcourt, to force opponents to shoot over the defense and rebound every miss. That requires players who go aggressively to the boards, and Maxiell will be that sort of player. When UC has a post scorer, Huggins is adept enough at getting the player shots, but the team can't afford to build a substantial



JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

Logan (above) is the team's only reliable returning scorer, so he will stay at shooting guard while Barker, a JC transfer, takes over at point guard.

component of its offense around Grove and then discover he's not comfortable with such a role. The Bearcats must continue to exhaust every idea of how to get Logan open. A post presence or dangerous scorer on the opposite wing would make that job easier.

KEY TO THE SEASON: Defensively, last year's team was one of the poorest Huggins has coached. Its rebounding was even worse. With half the great backcourt gone, and with Huggins averse to using pressure defense to energize his offense, this team has to return to rebounding and defending at levels that meet his standards. There are enough veterans who understand what is necessary and what the consequences are should they fail.

Bearcats Data

Coach: Bob Huggins (301-96, 12 years; 469-168 overall, 20 years; 17-8 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Keith LeGree (1 year), Dan Peters (2).

2000-2001 record: 25-10. C-USA American: 11-5/1st. Lost to Stanford in NCAA West semifinal.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 13.

Last league title: 2001 (American Division).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.

Site: Cincinnati.

Website: www.ucbearcats.com

Home court: Shoemaker Center (13,176).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
	G	Taron Barker	Racine, Wis.	6-0/190	Jr.	Quick hands find open teammates.					
30	F	Rodney Crawford	Cincinnati	6-5/220	Sr.	0.5	1.7	0.2	30.8	0.0	0.0
1	F	Jamaal Davis*	Gary, Ind.	6-9/227	Sr.	6.7	4.2	1.0	52.7	49.3	0.0
24	F	Rod Flowers	Huntsville, Ala.	6-8/225	So.	1.2	1.1	0.0	30.4	50.0	44.4
44	C	B.J. Grove*	Cincinnati	6-11/260	Jr.	4.2	3.8	0.4	48.8	47.1	—
	F	Derek Hollman	Itta Bena, Miss.	6-10/265	Jr.	Will be counted on to get plenty of boards.					
	F	Jimmy Hubbard	Belton, Mo.	6-6/210	Jr.	Combines skill with athletic ability and intelligence.					
22	G	Steve Logan*	Cleveland	6-0/196	Sr.	17.6	2.4	2.3	42.3	88.0	39.1
	F	Jason Maxiell	Carrollton, Texas	6-7/230	Fr.	Could become dominant power forward.					
23	G	Immanuel McElroy*	Port Arthur, Texas	6-4/195	Sr.	7.0	3.3	1.7	55.7	54.7	30.0
13	G	Leonard Stokes	Buffalo, N.Y.	6-6/202	Jr.	10.1	3.9	1.2	44.3	77.1	32.0
2	G	Fred Williams	Houston	6-3/190	So.	3.2	0.6	0.4	43.4	80.0	43.8

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Anwan Jones	Live Oaks, Fla.	6-7/195	5.3	2.4	0.4	33.7	61.5	33.3
C	Donald Little	Augusta, Ga.	6-1/233	Dismissed from team but could be allowed to return.					
G	Kenny Satterfield*	Bronx, N.Y.	6-2/186	14.4	4.7	5.1	36.4	74.2	38.7

2. Charlotte

National Rank: 35

FRONTCOURT: The development of power forward Butter Johnson, who averaged fewer than two baskets per game, is vital to Charlotte's success. He can handle the ball, is a deft finisher and should improve as a shooter. The 49ers know what they'll get from center Cam Stephens, who is energetic, tough and does what he can to command space in the lane. It would be nice if he would improve his free-throw shooting. Aside from Stephens, the 49ers are pedestrian along the front line. So far, power forwards Tory Reed and Matas Niparavicius and center Jermaine Williams have given coach Bobby Lutz no compelling reason to play them.

BACKCOURT: Calling Demon Brown a point guard describes what he does and not just what he is. Brown scored double figures in his first 17 college games. But he hit that mark in only three of the next 15, a clear indication he struggled with deciding when to shoot and when to pass. It's hard not to underrate Jobey Thomas. He rarely drives, labors to play passable defense and does not excel at passing. But he makes shots and works incredibly hard to get those shots. Thomas could help the 49ers by finding more ways to get himself fouled; he shoots better than 90 percent from the line. The opposite wing is likely to be filled by one of three recruits: JC product Curtis Nash or freshmen Mitchell Baldwin, who also can play the point, and Eddie Basden. Nash has the right combination of size and skills to complement the two incumbents.

STRATEGY: The 49ers will work to disguise their lack of interior power with clever and aggressive execution. Lutz has a good feel for when to try a particular tactic and rarely loses his grip on a game. Charlotte is not entirely dependent on jump-shooting and will drive to create opportunities—last year's top five scorers attempted a combined 780 3-pointers. If Johnson can find his range, this group will approach that figure.

3. Marquette

National Rank: 51

FRONTCOURT: Scott Merritt will need to be ready to add 10 minutes per game to the 18 he averaged as a freshman. He's 6-10 but tends not to play physically enough, something a team with only one big man can't afford. Versatile power forward Oluoma Nnamaka will start again. He helps with his ability to drive and shoot from the perimeter but often seems averse to standing out. Small forward Odaty Blankson added strength to his lean frame and could be one of the league's most improved players. He handles the ball well enough to play the point, if necessary. Rugged power forward Jon Harris handled some backup minutes in the middle last season, and that role will expand. Sophomore Terry Sanders will play all three frontcourt positions.

BACKCOURT: What will the Golden Eagles do without the 29 percent of the offense previously supplied by Brian Wardle? Two words: Dwyane Wade. He is a special talent who'll need to be a special player for Marquette to continue its progress. Wade was outstanding in Marquette's practices and had time to learn the system. He is more of a one-on-one player than Wardle, so the team won't have to spend as much energy to get him shots. Four-year starter Cordell Henry has some company, and perhaps some competition, at the point from freshman Travis Diener. Henry has made countless big plays and had a strong league season. If he continues at that pace, Diener will spell Henry and occasionally join him in the backcourt.

STRATEGY: Coach Tom Crean will not make major adjustments, but there should be an opportunity to emphasize post offense as Merritt improves. Wade can play, but wings in this offense generally get shots off the catch or behind picks, and that will be new for him. Marquette has defended adequately, and the rough patches should decrease because of improved athleticism.

49ers Data

Coach: Bobby Lutz (62-38, 3 years; 243-129 overall, 12 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Kevin Nickelberry (1st year), Rob Moxley (3), Benny Moss (1).

2000-2001 record: 22-11. C-USA

American: 10-6/2nd. Lost to Illinois in

NCAA Midwest second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 49.

Last league title: 1997 (White Division).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Charlotte

Website: www.charlotte49ers.com

Home court: Dale F. Haltron Arena (9,105).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
20	G	Mitchell Baldwin	6-2/180	Fr.	Two-time Winston-Salem player of year.					
13	G/F	Eddie Basden	6-5/205	Fr.	Athletic scorer can rebound and defend.					
11	G	Demon Brown	6-1/195	Jr.	11.7	2.5	4.0	38.4	64.3	35.3
40	F	David Hardy	6-8/200	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					
54	F	Butter Johnson	6-8/210	So.	3.5	5.7	1.0	43.3	50.9	17.4
1	G/F	Curtis Nash	6-6/190	Jr.	Can play anywhere on the perimeter.					
12	F	Matas Niparavicius	6-9/220	So.	0.9	0.9	0.1	25.0	50.0	20.0
2	F	Tory Reed	6-8/240	So.	2.5	1.4	0.4	56.4	47.4	—
10	F/C	Cam Stephens*	6-8/240	Sr.	7.8	7.8	1.0	46.1	58.3	0.0
31	G	Jobey Thomas*	6-4/190	Sr.	14.0	2.8	1.2	43.6	90.9	40.2
3	C	Jermaine Williams	6-10/240	Sr.	1.2	2.1	0.1	25.0	50.0	20.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Diego Guevara*	6-1/185	8.8	1.9	2.6	39.9	80.0	36.2
C	KenKay Jones	6-9/215	5.2	4.0	0.4	51.5	61.8	0.0
F	Rodney White*	6-9/230	18.7	6.5	1.5	48.7	71.3	34.7
F	James Zimmerman*	6-5/200	9.1	6.0	2.6	42.2	69.6	35.7

Schedule

N16 Davidson	D18 UTEP	J15 Saint Louis	F9 at Saint Louis
N18 Indiana	D22 at Miami	J18 at South Florida	F13 Memphis
N24 at Long Beach St.	D29 at George Wash.	J23 Louisville	F16 DePaul
N26 Appalachian St.	J5 Marquette	J26 East Carolina	F19 at Marquette
D1 at Temple	J8 at Cincinnati	J29 at DePaul	F23 Tulane
D8 Richmond	J12 at East Carolina	F2 at Houston	M2 at Louisville
		F6 Cincinnati	*Miami

Golden Eagles Data

Coach: Tom Crean (30-28, 2 years).

Assistant coaches: Dwayne Stephens (2 years), Darrin Horn (2), Tod Kowalczyk (1).

2000-2001 record: 15-14. C-USA

American: 9-7/3rd.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 54.

Last league title: 1994 (Great Midwest).

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Milwaukee.

Website: www.gomarquette.com

Home court: Bradley Center (19,150).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
0	F	Odaty Blankson*	6-7/215	So.	6.1	5.5	0.3	39.3	55.6	35.6
10	G	Travis Diener	6-0/160	Fr.	Great shooter can pitch, too.					
33	G	David Diggs	6-4/215	Sr.	0.6	0.6	0.1	30.0	50.0	40.0
34	F	Jon Harris	6-7/225	Sr.	4.4	4.1	0.7	58.1	44.4	—
4	G	Cordell Henry*	5-10/160	Sr.	12.9	3.3	4.4	43.9	72.4	31.6
30	G	Ron Howard	6-5/170	Fr.	Made a splash in Chicago Public League.					
21	F	Kevin Menard	6-6/210	Fr.	AAU teammates with Howard, Townsend.					
5	F	Scott Merritt	6-10/245	So.	6.0	3.6	0.5	43.0	71.6	30.0
14	F	Oluoma Nnamaka*	6-7/225	Sr.	10.2	5.2	1.2	78.3	43.4	27.5
40	F	Terry Sanders	6-8/220	So.	2.1	1.3	0.3	62.5	58.8	100.0
1	F	Todd Townsend	6-7/215	Fr.	Honed his skills last year at prep school.					
3	G	Dwyane Wade	6-4/210	Fr.	Partial qualifier last year; excellent athlete.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Brian Barone	6-0/165	2.8	2.0	1.5	34.3	71.0	28.6
C	John Mueller*	6-10/240	2.1	1.9	0.1	45.5	66.7	—
G	Brian Wardle*	6-5/205	18.8	3.7	2.0	40.4	83.8	38.2

Schedule

N17 Loyola (Ill.)	D22 at Wisconsin	J15 UAB	F9 Southern Miss.
N18 Chicago State	D29 at Wake Forest	J19 at DePaul	F16 Louisville
N21-24 Gr. Alaska Shoot.	J2 Morris Brown	J23 TCU	F19 Charlotte
N30-D1 Coca Cola Cl.	J5 at Charlotte	J26 at Saint Louis	F22 at Cincinnati
D5 Dayton	J9 at Louisville	J29 at Tulane	F26 at East Carolina
D8 Fordham	J12 Saint Louis	F2 Cincinnati	M1 DePaul
		F6 East Carolina	

4. Louisville

National Rank: 56

FRONTCOURT: The team lost only 3.6 points per game when center Muhammed Lasege was ruled ineligible because of his playing experience overseas, but it lost much more. He would have been a promising foundation for the frontcourt, especially with new coach Rick Pitino's approach, which places a premium on mobility. Lasege's absence increases the importance of freshman Brandon Bender, who improved dramatically as a high school senior and should blossom as the Cardinals rework his body. Pitino is likely to get more from Joseph N'Sima, who will start in the middle, than the player provided last season. N'Sima could be a significant shot blocker and is a surprisingly effective passer. But he must finish better and become more proficient at the line. Power forward Ellis Myles faced a major conditioning challenge but is valuable because he's the team's one truly tough player.

BACKCOURT: Though the overall talent level is not exceptional, it's hard to complain about starting with freshman point guard Carlos Hurt, a McDonald's All-American last year; junior shooting guard Reece Gaines, who shot 42.6 percent on 3s; and wing Erik Brown, a double-figure scorer but a streaky shooter in both his college seasons. Gaines will be much better playing off the ball because he struggled to make decisions. His first thought last year was to shoot. Now, that's his job description. Pairing him with Hurt could lead to more drive-and-kick shots for Brown.

STRATEGY: Pitino intends to install the pressing game that took both Providence and Kentucky to the Final Four. That requires players in top condition. It also requires depth, which is a problem, and shooters, which the Cards don't have. Pitino has a history of getting as much as possible from his teams, but the immediate future appears limited. If he can get the Cards above .500 and into the NIT, that will be plenty.

5. Saint Louis

National Rank: 96

FRONTCOURT: Power forward Chris Braun had to wait his turn, but that doesn't mean he won't be better than the player he replaced. Braun has a 3-point touch that could hurt defenses, and he should be good for seven or eight rebounds per night. He won't have Chris Heinrich or Justin Tatum to absorb physical pressure, but junior college recruit Kenny Brown might be able to handle some. Small forward Chris Sloan did not have a successful rookie season—he struggled to make any kind of shot—and is in danger of losing minutes if the team moves to a lineup featuring smaller, quicker wings. The lack of proven frontcourt depth is the Billikens' most obvious weakness.

BACKCOURT: This will be coach Lorenzo Romar's quickest team in his three years at SLU and will allow him to move toward a faster pace. Opening the court should allow point guard Marque Perry to flourish. He had a solid sophomore season but is capable of creating more than he has by driving and kicking the ball to open shooters. There is no shortage of wings, only a shortage of experience. Floyd McClain was a top recruit two years ago because of his athleticism, and Jason Edwin started 11 games as a freshman and shot well, but they'll have to handle important roles. Shooters Drew Diener and Josh Fisher showed they can stretch defenses, but both have to guard better, and Fisher must learn to take better care of the ball.

STRATEGY: The Billikens have been oppressive defenders in their two years under Romar. This season, the challenge is to continue that while energizing the offense. They have relied on a single offensive force the past two years—Justin Love, then Maurice Jeffers—to stay competitive. It's not bad to lean a little on one player, but it's tough to win as a one-man show. Running the ball could turn more of the Billikens into offensive threats.

Cardinals Data

Coach: Rick Pitino (1st year; 352-124 overall, 15 years; 26-7 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title with Kentucky in 1996).
Assistant coaches: Vince Taylor (3 years), Mick Cronin (1st year), Kevin Willard (1 year).

2000-2001 record: 12-19. C-USA American: 8-8/T4th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 65.
Last league title: 1994 (Metro).
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Louisville, Ky.
Website: www.uofl sports.com
Home court: Freedom Hall (18,865).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
5	F/C	Brandon Bender	6-9/245	Fr.	Picks up tons of rebounds, blocked shots.					
33	G/F	Erik Brown	6-5/200	Jr.	10.2	3.9	1.3	41.2	80.5	26.0
22	G	Reece Gaines*	6-6/185	Jr.	13.9	3.5	3.3	43.9	67.5	42.6
12	G	Carlos Hurt	6-1/180	Fr.	Lefty will be expected to contribute.					
2	F	Ellis Myles	6-8/240	So.	6.1	5.5	1.8	48.1	53.2	—
55	F/C	Joseph N'Sima*	6-8/215	Sr.	2.6	5.6	1.4	35.2	57.4	0.0
3	G	Bryant Northern	6-1/180	So.	3.5	1.3	1.2	32.1	60.7	28.4
21	F	Larry O'Bannon	6-5/195	Fr.	Hit 85 percent of free throws as senior.					
0	F	Greg Tinch	6-4/220	Fr.	Aggressive forward is built like a tank					
4	F	Haji Turner	6-8/220	Sr.	3.0	2.1	0.6	50.7	44.4	—
24	F	Luke Whitehead	6-7/215	So.	5.6	3.1	1.1	42.2	51.9	20.0
1	F	Mac Wilkinson	6-8/235	So.	1.6	1.2	0.2	37.1	60.0	30.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Rashad Brooks*	6-1/205	6.1	2.2	1.6	43.3	75.5	39.8
C	Muhammed Lasege*	6-11/225	3.6	3.3	0.4	37.9	50.0	—
G	Marques Maybin*	6-3/185	17.7	3.0	1.9	39.9	77.7	38.2

Schedule

N18	South Alabama	D21	Tennessee	J16	at East Carolina	F9	at Indiana
N24	at Oregon	D26	Eastern Kentucky	J23	at Cincinnati	F12	at DePaul
D1	Tennessee State	D29	at Kentucky	J26	DePaul	F19	East Carolina
D7-8	Jim Thorpe Cl.	J5	at UAB	J30	at Memphis	F22	at Saint Louis
D12	Coppin State	J9	Marquette	F1	South Florida	F27	Cincinnati
D15	Ohio State	J12	TCU	F5	Saint Louis	M2	Charlotte

Billikens Data

Coach: Lorenzo Romar (36-28, 2 years; 78-72 overall, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Brad Soderberg (1st year), Cameron Dollar (1 year), Lance LaVetter (1).
2000-2001 record: 17-14. C-USA

American: 8-8/4th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 67.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: St. Louis.
Website: www.slubillikens.com
Home court: Savvis Center (20,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
52	F	Chris Braun	6-10/235	Jr.	6.1	3.6	0.2	50.0	63.6	39.1
	F/C	Kenny Brown	6-9/250	Jr.	Junior college first team all-conference.					
21	G	Drew Diener	6-5/200	Jr.	4.5	1.2	0.7	41.4	80.5	39.3
44	G/F	Jason Edwin*	6-5/205	So.	4.3	2.0	1.4	45.5	90.0	44.4
4	G	Josh Fisher	6-8/185	Jr.	5.0	1.8	2.9	42.1	69.4	39.0
22	G	Phillip Hunt	5-11/160	So.	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.0	75.0	0.0
00	G/F	Floyd McClain	6-4/190	So.	2.0	1.2	0.5	29.5	56.0	18.2
5	G	Marque Perry*	6-1/175	Jr.	10.1	2.4	3.5	42.0	75.6	30.6
	G	Randy Pulley	6-2/205	Fr.	Once scored 52 points on 24-27 shooting.					
	F	John Seyfert	6-9/235	Fr.	Gatorade Player of the Year in Montana.					
35	G/F	Chris Sloan	6-7/205	So.	1.3	1.4	1.0	38.5	42.1	14.3
25	F	Ross Varner	6-7/220	So.	Transfer played at Pepperdine in 1998-99.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Matt Baniak*	6-9/235	7.4	3.8	0.3	50.6	77.4	66.7
C	Chris Heinrich*	6-11/255	6.8	4.5	0.4	54.6	72.7	—
G	Maurice Jeffers*	6-4/195	16.0	6.1	2.5	44.9	77.7	43.8
F	Justin Tatum	6-7/235	8.9	5.1	0.6	45.6	50.7	20.0

Schedule

N19	SIU-Carbondale	D19	Furman	J15	at Charlotte	F12	at Cincinnati
N22-24	Las Vegas Invit.	D22	at Dayton	J19	East Carolina	F16	Georgia Tech
N30	Ark.-Little Rock	D29	Washington	J22	Cincinnati	F19	UAB
D3	Missouri	J2	at SW Missouri	J26	Marquette	F22	Louisville
D6	at California	J5	Houston	J29	at Southern Miss	F26	at DePaul
D9	Denver	J8	DePaul	F2	at East Carolina	M2	at Tulane
		J12	at Marquette	F5	at Louisville		
				F9	Charlotte		

6. DePaul

National Rank: 111

FRONT COURT: Losing two players to the NBA draft might seem like a lot to overcome, but what did Steve Hunter and Bobby Simmons do for the Blue Demons? Simmons was a numbers guy, and Hunter barely cared. Without those two, center Lance Williams finally might approach his potential. He has been injury prone, but he is a solid low-post scorer. Power forward Andre Brown had a disastrous freshman year, demonstrating no confidence or aggression until a short February stretch. But with his athletic ability, he still has a chance to be great. Junior college recruit Sam Hoskin can take over for Brown or Williams, if either falters. Kansas transfer Marlon London could wind up with Simmons' job. London is solid, and DePaul needs more of that, but he has to shoot better.

BACK COURT: You love point guard Imari Sawyer or you don't. His numbers seduce many who watch him, but Sawyer has yet to demonstrate he can make sound decisions or run a team. It's possible his arrival and the Demons' decline were related. But he is talented and could mature into an all-league point guard by reducing his turnovers and focusing on winning. In tandem with Sawyer, Rashon Burno got plenty of minutes but didn't handle the ball enough. He is the team's most competitive player, but his role may dwindle if Sawyer progresses and a bigger lineup works. After shooting guard Joe Tulley starred in a win over Temple, his coaches focused on his shot-making and not his athletic limitations.

STRATEGY: Coach Pat Kennedy hired former Clippers coach Jim Todd to help restructure the system, a move that could rescue the Demons from the rapid decline that occurred last season. The Blue Demons will have to outscore opponents because defense will not be a strength, but they must be more efficient with the ball—getting it to Williams often—to recover from last season.

Blue Demons Data

Coach: Pat Kennedy (58-64, 4 years; 384-257, 21 years; 6-8 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Tracy Dildy (4 years), Brian Kennedy (4), Jim Todd (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 12-18. C-USA American: 4-12/6th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 24.

Last league title: 1992 (tie, Great Midwest).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Chicago.

Website: www.depaulbluedemons.com

Home court: Allstate Arena (17,500), United Center (21,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
30	G	Marlon Brooks	6-1/170	Jr.	Co-freshman of the year in junior college.					
4	F/C	Andre Brown	6-9/230	So.	6.5	4.9	0.3	46.2	47.0	0.0
11	G	Rashon Burno	5-7/175	Sr.	6.7	3.7	2.9	37.9	65.3	34.0
33	G	Drake Diener	6-5/180	Fr.	Brother Drew plays for St. Louis.					
42	G	Sean Farrell	6-4/190	Fr.	Walk-on has academic scholarship.					
45	G/F	Quemont Greer	6-7/220	Fr.	Considered a top prep small forward.					
21	F/C	Sam Hoskin	6-9/260	Jr.	Second-leading JC scorer in nation.					
23	G	Marlon London	6-5/200	Jr.	Transfer played two years for Kansas.					
31	F	Jon Oden	6-8/215	Jr.	2.2	1.8	0.2	54.5	83.3	—
15	G	Imari Sawyer*	6-2/170	So.	11.7	2.4	6.0	36.9	78.1	28.2
3	G	LeVar Seals	6-4/180	Fr.	Missed senior high school campaign (foot).					
12	G	Joe Tulley*	6-2/180	Jr.	7.6	2.2	1.8	35.0	81.0	36.2
52	C/F	Lance Williams*	6-9/250	Sr.	10.7	5.8	0.3	47.5	66.2	0.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Steve Hunter*	7-0/220	11.4	5.6	0.5	59.2	53.6	—
G/F	Bobby Simmons*	6-7/210	16.7	8.6	2.5	44.7	80.0	37.0

Schedule

D18	Chicago State	J19	Marquette	F12	Louisville
N12	Fordham*	D22	at Temple	J23	at East Carolina
N25	Youngstown St.	D29	Missouri	J26	at Louisville
D1	Notre Dame	J5	Tulane	J29	Charlotte
D5	Ohio	J8	at Saint Louis	F3	at UNLV
D8	at Fairfield	J12	South Florida	F5	at TCU
D11	Murray State	J16	at Cincinnati	F9	East Carolina
D16	Long Island				*Preseason NIT

7. East Carolina

National Rank: 181

FRONT COURT: Power forward Gabriel Mikulas is one Pirate who is ready for Conference USA. He was the Colonial's rookie of the year and plays with the Argentine national team. He scores inside, passes OK, gets fouled and makes free throws. Mikulas needs to improve physically, though. He gives up the ball too easily and does not do enough to chase down rebounds. Undersized post player Erroyl Bing struggled offensively as a freshman but was the only Pirate who was competitive on the boards. Recruit Moussa Badiane, an athletic shot blocker, will provide inside help. But the big key is the development of small forward Jonathan Moore, who sat out last season to establish eligibility and has the athleticism and skills to have an immediate impact. He could allow coach Bill Herrion to go with a bigger lineup.

BACK COURT: Shooting guard Fred Primus can be a big-time scorer, although he was not consistent as a junior. He relies too much on his 3-point shot, which isn't accurate enough. Freshman Devin Boddie will provide competition for returning starting point guard Travis Holcomb-Faye, who last season fell one assist short of tying the school's single-season record. Boddie could win the job. If he doesn't, he'll be a fixture in the rotation. Shooting guard Brandon Hawkins is a fine jump-shooter, but the team would be better off if he received limited minutes.

STRATEGY: Since his successful days at Drexel, Herrion has emphasized effective halfcourt man-to-man defense. But he doesn't have the personnel yet to slug it out with C-USA teams. That's why Herrion is giving some thought to using pressure defense. The Pirates could sit on the ball in an attempt to disguise their talent shortage, but they still might lose just as often, and they would lose more recruits than they can stand. Playing fast could mitigate the disadvantages the team faces in size and strength.

Pirates Data

Coach: Bill Herrion (24-32, 2 years; 191-103 overall, 10 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Richard Morgan (2 years), Greg Herenda (1).
2000-2001 record: 14-14. Colonial: 6-10/77th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 215.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1983.

Site: Greenville, N.C.

Website: www.ecupirates.com

Home court: Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum (8,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
55	F/C	Moussa Badiane	6-10/215	Fr.	Senegal native was playing in France.					
33	F	Erroyl Bing*	6-6/250	So.	10.4	7.9	1.1	38.7	66.3	38.2
20	G	Jimmy Bishop	6-5/210	So.	4.0	1.5	0.2	35.2	80.8	33.3
24	G	Devin Boddie	6-2/185	Fr.	Point guard considered among state's best.					
3	G	Kenyatta Brown	6-4/185	Sr.	6.7	3.0	0.4	40.2	70.2	23.9
10	G	Bryan Foxx	6-1/180	Sr.	0.9	0.4	0.3	35.7	66.7	0.0
23	G	Brandon Hawkins*	6-2/180	Sr.	8.9	2.3	1.5	35.1	75.5	38.9
42	G	T. Holcomb-Faye*	6-1/175	Jr.	9.2	3.8	4.3	44.0	74.3	33.3
51	F	Gabriel Mikulas*	6-8/220	So.	15.0	5.7	1.9	59.5	79.6	0.0
32	F	Jonathan Moore	6-8/195	So.	His play could be critical to team's season.					
2	G	Fred Primus*	6-3/190	Sr.	13.1	3.4	1.6	36.7	65.8	36.7
12	G/F	Craig Savage	6-5/180	Jr.	1.3	0.5	0.3	22.2	50.0	50.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Jake Fugal	6-9/230	1.6	1.3	0.2	42.5	60.0	—
G	Larry Morrissey	6-2/175	1.0	0.6	0.6	18.6	100.0	19.9
G/F	Vincent Sharpe	6-5/185	3.3	4.0	1.0	45.2	60.0	17.6

Schedule

D8	Old Dominion	J16	Louisville	F9	at DePaul
D15	USC Spartanburg	J19	at Saint Louis	F12	Southern Miss
D19	Middle Tenn. St.	J23	DePaul	F16	Birm. Southern
N15-16	BCA Invitational	D22	Radford	J26	at Charlotte
N19	at Appal'chian St.	J2	Lees-McRae	J29	at Cincinnati
N24	Central Florida	J5	Cincinnati	F2	Saint Louis
N27	at Virginia Tech	J8	at UAB	F6	at Marquette
D5	at UNC-Greens.	J12	Charlotte		M2 at TCU

1. Memphis

National Rank: 10

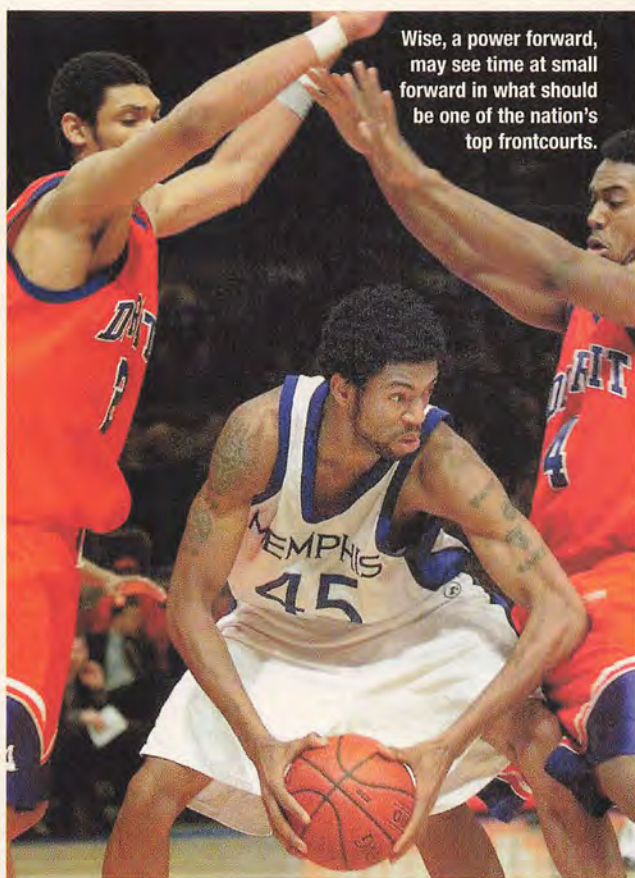
Schedule

N18 N'western State
N13-21 Guardians Cla.*
N24 SE Louisiana
D28 Christian Brothers
D1 Eastern Kentucky
D7 at Mississippi
D15 Tennessee
D20 at Temple
D22 Austin Peay
D28 Tennessee-Martin
J2 Arkansas
J5 Southern Miss
J9 at TCU
J12 at Tulane
J15 South Florida
J18 at Southern Miss
J23 UAB
J26 at Houston
J30 Louisville
F2 TCU
F4 Tulane
F8 at UAB
F13 at Charlotte
F16 Houston
F20 at South Florida
F23 DePaul
M3 at Cincinnati
*at Kansas City, Mo.

FRONTCOURT: Memphis made its run to the NIT Final Four largely because of the play of its front line, particularly the contributions from the twin-tower combination of Earl Barron and Kelly Wise. Some Tigers fans will tell you that Barron and Wise won't be the best frontcourt players on the team this season, although junior college transfer Chris Massie will be the first to tell you his pickup game prowess will hold little meaning once practice begins. Massie, 25, has drawn comparisons to Anthony Mason. Barron is a solid 6-11 and is expected to hold a playing weight of 240; his experience with the World University Games team loaded him with confidence. Wise is a potential first-round draft pick who considered declaring as a junior. Coach John Calipari wants him to spend more time refining his small forward skills, but it is impossible not to value Wise's relentless work on the glass. He finished 11th in the nation last season in rebounding. Also, if Wise hits his free throws, he could be C-USA's best all-around player. Modibo Diarra continues to face a steep learning curve and again will be most helpful on defense and on the glass. Freshman Duane

Erwin will see minutes because of his defense and boardwork.

BACKCOURT: When Dajuan Wagner takes the court for the opener, it will be the most anticipated Memphis debut since Penny Hardaway 11 years ago. It is rare for an already competent team to run its offense around a 6-3 freshman, but Wagner's scoring talent will force the issue on this team. His jumper is reliable out to 25 feet. He attacks the goal with a combination of power, balance and control, and he can finish from nearly any angle regardless of physical contact. Calipari says he wants to play him at shooting guard and employ him in an Allen Iverson-like role. Who starts beside him? Courtney Trask or former junior college standout Antonio Burks. Trask is the steadier, more cerebral, shooting guard. Burks brings speed and a rock-like physique that will make him a fine defensive player. When Calipari goes to a three-guard set, Scooter McFadgon will play on the wing. A member of C-USA's All-Freshman team last year, McFadgon became the player to take clutch, game-changing shots last season and was the year's most pleasant surprise. Former JC All-American John Grice, a gifted shooter, has struggled to conform to Calipari's system.



WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

STRATEGY: Talent is in abundance, so Wagner will not need to dominate every night out. There are so many weapons on this team that Calipari's biggest challenge will be fitting players into roles. Calipari could go with a huge lineup that includes Massie, Wise and Barron, or go with speed and use Burks, Wagner and McFadgon. Outside shooting again could be Memphis' Achilles' heel, but there are more outside options available this season than last.

KEY TO THE SEASON: Chemistry will be everything. There are so many interchangeable parts and so many players good enough to start that Calipari will most likely find a couple of unhappy campers. The catalysts must be Wagner, with his prodigious talent, and Wise, with his experience, talent and oncourt savvy. If everyone spins around that axis, Memphis should win the league crown and enter the NCAA Tournament as a top-five seed.

Tigers Data

Coach: John Calipari (21-15, 1 year; 214-86 overall, 9 years; 11-5 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Tony Barbee (1 year), Steve Roccaforte (1), Derek Kellogg (1).

2000-2001 record: 21-15. C-USA National: 10-6/2nd. Beat Detroit in NIT third-place game.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 47.

Last league title: 1998 (National Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Memphis.

Website: www.gotigersgo.com

Home court: The Pyramid (20,142).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.
30	C	Earl Barron	Clarksdale, Miss.	6-11/230	Jr.
10	G	Antonio Burks	Memphis	5-10/170	So.
43	C	Modibo Diarra*	Mali, West Africa	6-10/235	So.
	F	Duane Erwin	Huntsville, Ala.	6-9/220	Fr.
20	G	John Grice	Memphis	6-6/205	Sr.
	F/C	Chris Massie	Arcola, Texas	6-8/262	Jr.
3	G	Scooter McFadgon*	Memphis	6-5/190	So.
	G	Anthony Rice	Atlanta	6-4/195	Fr.
4	G	Nathaniel Root	Adamsville, Tenn.	5-11/170	Jr.
5	G	Courtney Trask	Baton Rouge, La.	6-3/177	Jr.
	G	Dajuan Wagner	Camden, N.J.	6-3/197	Fr.
45	F	Kelly Wise*	Fort Walton, Fla.	6-10/217	Sr.

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Shyrone Chatman*	Baton Rouge, La.	6-11/230	9.2	3.1	4.6	41.3	75.3	40.6
F	Shannon Forman*	Baton Rouge, La.	6-5/225	9.8	4.4	2.1	45.3	67.6	35.5
F	Shamel Jones	New York	6-9/220	5.8	3.7	1.0	53.1	71.2	0.0
G	Marcus Moody	Memphis	6-5/190	10.1	2.1	2.0	41.4	62.7	35.5

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
8.3	4.7	0.4	54.1	58.3	—
JC star is quick and solid around the basket.					
2.7	2.6	0.2	50.8	54.8	—
Rounds out solid recruiting class.					
4.0	1.6	0.6	20.7	83.3	9.7
One of the nation's top junior college players.					
9.3	3.3	1.3	39.8	77.5	35.8
Showed in pickup games that he can play.					
2.0	0.6	1.0	30.3	66.7	29.6
5.2	2.9	2.4	31.8	73.1	27.5
Won Naismith award as top prep hoopster.					
15.3	10.1	1.9	48.1	50.4	—

2. South Florida

National Rank: 60

FRONTCOURT: Altron Jackson and B.B. Waldon have been among the top scoring tandems in the country the past two years. But the Bulls' postseason activity in the B.B.-Altron era has consisted of one NIT loss. Give Jackson credit: He adds to his game every season and can make himself a lottery pick. To play in the NCAA Tournament, however, Jackson will need Waldon to gain some consistency. Waldon's scoring, rebounding and shooting have dropped in conference games. Gerrick Morris is a talented shot blocker with potential at center. Will McDonald and Mike Bernard are skilled enough big men who could benefit with more speed and conditioning. Coach Seth Greenberg likes the talent of redshirt freshman Terrence Leather. Newcomers Brandon Brigman, Greg Brittian and Kelvin Brown could get time inside.

BACKCOURT: Long-range shooting and gritty play have kept Reggie Kohn starting as point guard despite his deficiencies in strength and speed. He'll be challenged by prize recruit Brian Swift, though Greenberg could use both at the same time. Jimmy Baxter, a terrific athlete who won C-USA's high-jump title in track, will get a shot on the wing. Junior college transfer Doug Ivancsists and freshman Marlyn Bryant also will be factors in the backcourt, with Brittian also a perimeter possibility.

STRATEGY: This will be the Altron and B.B. Show. They are talented enough to drive the Bulls, but they need to exert more leadership and determination, especially in league play. Swift could have a big impact. Greenberg has the kind of athletes who can thrive in the 1-3-1 defense, but the Bulls are going to miss the tough, hard-nosed defense that departed seniors Chonsey Asbury, Cedric Smith and Artha Reeves provided. After two underachieving seasons, maybe Waldon and Jackson can help the Bulls overachieve into the postseason this year.

Bulls Data

Coach: Seth Greenberg (74-73, 5 years; 179-143 overall, 11 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: David Zimroth (6 years), Clyde Vaughan (3), Brian Yankelevitz (3).
2000-2001 record: 18-13. C-USA

National: 9-7/3rd.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 57.

Last league title: 2000 (tie, National Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Tampa, Fla.

Website: www.gousfbulls.com

Home court: USF Sun Dome (10,411).

Roster										*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%									
22	G/F	Jimmy Baxter	6-5/185	So.	2.5	0.8	0.4	42.0	50.0	28.6									
42	C	Mike Bernard	6-11/280	Sr.	2.7	1.4	0.3	54.1	73.1	—									
	C	Brandon Brigman	6-9/240	Fr.	Tough player has soft hands.														
	F	Greg Brittian	6-6/225	Jr.	Expected to be an impact player.														
	F	Kelvin Brown	6-7/220	Fr.	Led high school team to two state titles.														
	F/G	Marlyn Bryant	6-4/200	Fr.	Can play either guard position.														
	G	Doug Ivancsists	6-4/180	Jr.	Transfer is a hard worker and pure scorer.														
11	G	Altron Jackson	6-6/186	Sr.	18.9	4.9	1.9	48.4	67.4	31.1									
35	G	Reggie Kohn*	6-1/162	Jr.	6.5	2.2	3.7	34.2	65.0	30.2									
21	F	Terrence Leather	6-9/198	Fr.	Redshirted (medical) after three games.														
45	C	Will McDonald	6-11/257	Jr.	3.4	1.6	0.2	42.9	59.1	—									
20	F	Gerrick Morris*	6-10/205	So.	3.6	3.2	0.4	40.2	45.8	—									
	G	Brian Swift	5-10/155	Fr.	Was selected as an Ohio Merit Student.														
14	F	B.B. Waldon*	6-8/210	Sr.	17.1	7.2	2.1	54.3	51.0	50.0									

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Chonsey Asbury	6-6/200	6.3	3.6	1.5	47.6	66.1	0.0
F	Artha Reeves	6-7/210	5.8	4.7	0.7	49.1	68.2	—
G/F	Sam Sanders*	6-4/215	4.1	3.6	1.6	58.3	47.4	50.0
F	Cedric Smith*	6-4/220	10.3	4.8	3.5	38.7	68.5	33.8

Schedule

N19	Fordham	D28	USF Shootout	J23	at Tulane	F16	at TCU
N23-25	RMC Shootout	J2	Florida State	J26	Cincinnati	F20	Memphis
N28	Prairie View A&M	J5	TCU	J29	at UCF	F23	at UAB
D1	California	J8	Southern Miss	F1	at Louisville	F26	Houston
D4	at No. Illinois	J12	at DePaul	F5	UAB	M2	at Southern Miss
D8	Florida	J15	at Memphis	F9	Tulane		

3. UAB

National Rank: 71

FRONTCOURT: Of all the injuries suffered by the Blazers last season, the ACL blowout of Myron Ransom made the biggest difference. After taking a medical redshirt, Ransom will return this season to play for a UAB team that could be this league's dark horse. Will Campbell, who put up all-league numbers as a power-forward/center in league play, will play alongside Ransom. Blazers coaches are excited about the arrival of JC transfer Antonae Roberson, who can convert inside despite his lack of overpowering size; he and fellow JC transfer Cedric Davis will be asked to contribute early. Eric Batchelor can become a serious outside weapon if he improves his consistency. Tom Frericks brings energy to the court, if not a lot of athleticism.

BACKCOURT: It took P.J. Arnold half the season to find consistency; once he did, he became one of the most dangerous players in the league, raining 3s, scoring on the break and finishing inside. He'll be UAB's primary weapon. Eric Bush, a JC transfer, will replace LeAndrew Bass, whose eligibility expired. Bush's play will determine how good UAB can be. Tony Johnson and Asa Woods also can play the point, though Johnson is a more natural shooting guard/small forward. He's also a good defensive presence. Morris Finley, who sat out last season with a broken vertebrae, has good instincts. JC transfer Andy Rice and wing Sidney Ball are among a host of guards who will try to convince coach Murry Bartow they deserve playing time.

STRATEGY: Bartow can go big or small, use a traditional high-low offense or spread the court with four guys who can shoot the 3 and Campbell in the middle. The lack of height could pose problems, but the Blazers counter that with strength. If a dependable point guard emerges, this will be a squad confident and talented enough to grab an NCAA Tournament berth.

Blazers Data

Coach: Murry Bartow (90-66, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
2000-2001 record: 17-14. C-USA
National: 8-8/4th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 111.
Last league title: 1999 (National Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Birmingham, Ala.

Website: www.uabsports.com

Home court: Bartow Arena (8,500).

Roster										*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%									
24	G	P.J. Arnold*	6-5/205	Sr.	13.4	2.9	1.1	36.7	70.0	36.7									
30	F	Eric Batchelor*	6-7/210	Sr.	11.5	4.1	0.8	35.0	83.1	32.9									
32	G/F	Sidney Ball	6-5/185	Jr.	4.0	3.9	0.6	45.6	66.7	40.0									
33	G	Eric Bush	5-10/180	Jr.	Team's success rides on his play.														
54	F	Will Campbell*	6-8/245	Sr.	8.7	8.1	0.6	55.6	47.7	—									
4	G	Jeffrey Collins	6-4/190	Fr.	Athletic shooter has great range.														
34	F	Cedric Davis	6-8/225	Jr.	Was MVP of 3 JC tournaments last year.														
10	G	Morris Finley	5-11/165	So.	Returning after injury to vertebrae.														
31	C	Tom Frericks	6-9/250	So.	2.1	2.4	0.1	44.0	46.4	—									
21	G/F	Tony Johnson	6-4/180	Jr.	4.0	3.3	3.3	40.3	69.2	21.1									
13	C	Myron Ransom	6-5/225	Sr.	Coming back from blowout of ACL.														
5	G	Andy Rice	6-2/180	Jr.	JC transfer will have to earn time.														
42	F	Antonae Roberson	6-5/230	Jr.	Can play inside despite lack of size.														
3	G	Asa Woods	6-5/185	So.	2.3	1.0	0.9	25.7	52.0	9.5									

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	LeAndrew Bass*	6-3/185	14.6	3.7	4.7	42.4	72.5	29.4
C	Igor Nikolic	7-1/240	5.5	4.1	0.7	46.1	85.7	28.8
F	David Walker*	6-5/205	9.8	7.4	1.1	56.9	48.9	33.3

Schedule

N17-20	Paradise Jam Tr.	D19	Louisiana Tech	J12	at Southern Miss	F8	Memphis
N24	Richmond	D22	at La Salle	J15	at Marquette	F12	TCU
N27	Bradley	D29	Jackson State	J19	Houston	F16	at Tulane
D1	at Murray State	J2	Florida A&M	J23	at Memphis	F19	at Saint Louis
D4	Alcorn State	J5	Louisville	J26	Tulane	F23	South Florida
D8	UNLV	J8	East Carolina	J29	at TCU	F26	Southern Miss
				F5	at South Florida	M2	at Houston

4. TCU

National Rank: 88

FRONTCOURT: Coach Billy Tubbs was excited about the late-season emergence of athletic forward Bingo Merriex, who will take on more responsibility this year. Marlon Dumont also will see his minutes increase after averaging 6 points and 4.3 rebounds in fewer than 15 minutes per game. Rebel Paulk could serve as the inside enforcer. Tubbs expects junior college transfer Jamal Brown to make TCU a better rebounding team. Freshmen Brian Carter and Marcus Sloan could be factors, with Carter the more advanced of the pair.

BACKCOURT: The decision by Greedy Daniels to forgo his eligibility and enter the NBA draft leaves TCU inexperienced in the backcourt. TCU will have to revolve around its Nucleus, in this case sophomore guard Nucleus Smith from Pontiac, Mich. He is a very efficient player—.515 from the field, only 34 turnovers in 598 minutes. Smith probably will team in the backcourt with freshman Corey Santee, another Michigan native and a player for whom Tubbs has high expectations. Freshmen Corey Valsin and James Davis add athleticism to the perimeter, and junior college transfer Alan Blount provides another option at point guard. Tubbs will have TCU throwing up the 3s again, but there aren't as many weapons as in the past.

STRATEGY: TCU will not enter C-USA exactly as advertised. The Frogs are young, and Tubbs has said this will be more of a halfcourt team. That's not to say the team won't play uptempo, but do not expect TCU to press as much as in previous years. There are some strong, physical players on the roster, and Tubbs always has shown an ability to take advantage of his team's strengths. Merriex and Dumont must elevate their games for TCU to be competitive. This will be a work in progress, and an NIT bid would be a nice accomplishment in a rebuilding year.

Horned Frogs Data

Coach: Billy Tubbs (140-80, 7 years; 579-280 overall, 27 years; 18-12 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Brian Fish (5 years), Rob Alaska (3), Scott Edgar (2).
2000-2001 record: 20-11. WAC: 9-7/4th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 38.
Last league title: 1998 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Fort Worth, Texas.
Website: www.gofrogs.com
Home court: Daniel-Meyer Coliseum (7,200).

Roster										*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%									
15	G	Alan Blount	6-0/155	Jr.	JC transfer a candidate for backup point.														
30	F/C	Jamal Brown	6-7/228	Jr.	JC transfer should help on the boards.														
55	F/C	Chris Campbell	6-11/213	Jr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—									
40	F/C	Brian Carter	6-11/200	Fr.	Could get some time in the frontcourt.														
4	G	James Davis	6-5/195	Fr.	Adds athleticism to the perimeter.														
42	F/C	Marlon Dumont	6-9/225	Sr.	6.0	4.3	0.3	51.8	70.9	—									
	G	Kenneth Kelly	6-0/170	Fr.	Will be challenged to crack rotation.														
34	F	Bingo Merriex	6-9/225	Jr.	11.5	4.8	0.6	45.8	67.1	36.6									
44	F/C	Rebel Paulk	6-11/240	Fr.	0.7	1.1	0.2	19.2	50.0	—									
3	G	Corey Santee	6-2/185	Jr.	Tubbs expecting a lot from him.														
5	F	Marcus Sloan	6-8/204	Fr.	Look for him to contribute.														
1	G	Nucleus Smith	6-2/193	So.	6.9	1.9	1.9	51.5	74.2	23.1									
33	G	Corey Valsin	6-5/220	Fr.	High hopes for redshirted Texan.														

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Myron Anthony*	6-6/225	14.3	7.4	0.7	50.6	73.0	26.7
F	Ryan Carroll*	6-4/190	17.5	5.8	2.6	46.3	78.3	36.4
G	Greedy Daniels*	6-0/180	16.7	3.0	5.8	40.8	75.2	37.3
C	Derrick Davenport*	6-10/210	14.1	7.5	1.0	47.2	75.8	20.0
G	Thomas McTyler*	5-11/156	8.6	2.3	4.7	47.0	86.7	46.0

Schedule

Schedule	D8	South Alabama	J12	at Louisville	F5	DePaul
N16 NW Louisiana	D15	Texas-S. Antonio	J15	at Houston	F9	Houston
N19-21 Las Vegas Inv.	D18	SMU	J19	Tulane	F12	at UAB
N24 La.-Monroe	D20	Appalachian St.	J23	at Marquette	F16	South Florida
N28 SW Texas State	D29	Baylor	J26	Southern Miss	F23	at Southern Miss
D1 at Texas Tech	J5	at South Florida	J29	UAB	F26	at Tulane
D4 Creighton	J9	Memphis	F2	at Memphis	M2	East Carolina

Green Wave Data

Coach: Shawn Finney (9-21, 1 year).
Assistant coaches: Wade O'Connor (1 year), Jeff Reynolds (1), Steve Snell (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 9-21. C-USA National: 2-14/6th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 165.

Last league title: 2000 (tie, National Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: New Orleans.
Website: www.tulanegreenwave.com
Home court: Fogelman Arena (3,600), New Orleans Sports Arena (17,832).

Roster										*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%									
12	G	Justin Amick	6-0/160	So.	1.7	1.3	0.7	38.9	82.6	31.3									
	G	Ben Benfield	6-4/175	Fr.	Great shooting ability fits TCU's style.														
	G	Ben Bowling	6-3/185	Fr.	Athletic two guard excelling offensively.														
5	F	Brandon Brown*	6-8/220	Jr.	11.8	6.6	1.6	50.0	63.9	6.7									
54	C	George Brown	6-10/235	So.	1.6	1.3	0.1	37.5	55.0	—									
	G/F	Karl Hollingsworth	6-5/220	Fr.	Hard worker brings intensity.														
13	F	Linton Johnson*	6-8/205	Fr.	13.1	8.1	2.4	51.0	67.8	36.3									
	G	Marcus Kinzer	5-11/170	Fr.	Pure point guard is a great leader.														
3	G	Waitari Marsh	6-2/195	Jr.	Sat out last year (academics).														
	G	Byron Parker	6-2/185	Jr.	JC standout brings great athleticism.														
44	C	Ivan Pjevcevic	6-10/220	So.	1.2	0.9	0.2	40.0	66.7	50.0									
21	G	Marc Siegel	6-0/175	So.	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	33.3	0.0									
40	F	Nick Sinville	6-6/230	Jr.	Transferred from Minnesota.														
2	G	Brandon Spann*	6-1/185	Jr.	15.9	2.6	4.8	37.3	84.3	31.8									
45	G/F	Wayne Tinsley*	6-5/218	So.	7.7	3.6	2.2	40.4	44.1	16.7									

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Ledaryl Billingsley*	6-7/250	18.0	9.2	1.4	49.6	58.3	30.8

Schedule

Schedule		D10	D21	J12	F4
N16	Loyola (La.)	D10	Vanderbilt	J12	Memphis
N20	Centenary	D21	Lipscomb	J15	at Southern Miss
N24	Norfolk State	D23	at Georgia Tech	J19	at TCU
N27	at VCU	D29	Mississippi State	J23	South Florida
D1	at Florida	J2	at Kentucky	J26	at UAB
D5	New Orleans	J5	at DePaul	J29	Marquette
		J8	Houston	F2	Southern Miss
					M2
					Saint Louis

5. Tulane

National Rank: 126

FRONTCOURT: Tulane will miss Ledaryl Billingsley down low, but Minnesota transfer Nick Sinville will provide a tough interior presence. He practiced last season with the team and is familiar with the high-paced, press-and-run system. Linton Johnson, a silky 6-8 inside-outside player, emerged as one of C-USA's rising stars last season, leading the Green Wave in dunks and 3-point percentage. He also was among the league leaders in blocked shots and rebounds. Brandon Brown, a strong offensive rebounder, provides bulk inside and is coming off an outstanding season; George Brown and Ivan Pjevcevic, both 6-10, are the only players resembling centers, with Brown the more probable regular.

BACKCOURT: After sitting out last season on academic probation, Waitari Marsh is in a system perfectly suited to his run-and-gun point guard strengths. Marsh should allow Brandon Spann to move back to his natural position, shooting guard, and will give the Green Wave two guards capable of creating for themselves and others. Wayne Tinsley was one of five players who averaged more than 30 minutes per game last season, and, at 6-5, he can play shooting guard or small forward. Justin Amick, a 6-0 walk-on, gives valuable, scrappy minutes off the bench but may not be needed as much with the arrival of five new guards.

STRATEGY: Give coach Shawn Finney credit for sticking with the press-and-run style despite a short rotation and a roster that would have won more games with a grind-it-out system. Now, he has plenty of players capable of playing the system, and the late-game fatigue that cost Tulane last season won't be a factor. Tulane could find itself fighting for an NIT bid if Marsh and Sinville live up to expectations. The Green Wave will no longer be a C-USA pushover. And if Johnson improves this season as much as he did last year, the Wave could be dangerous.

6. Southern Miss

National Rank: 133

FRONTCOURT: Vandarel Jones no longer will man the middle for Southern Miss, so finding capable interior defenders is a top priority for coach James Green. The most likely candidates come from junior college, with big Ben Lambert from Okaloosa-Walton and Carey Rigsby from Western Oklahoma leading the way. Elvin Mims blossomed in the second half of last season and figures to be the primary offensive option for the Eagles; he can roam the perimeter for 3s and use his athleticism to explode past defenders or post up. But Kilavorous Thompson, a versatile forward who averaged 7.2 points and 5.2 rebounds, was expected to help at power forward until he tore knee ligaments over the summer. He likely is out for the season, which would mean a quick initiation process for prize freshman recruit Jasper Johnson.

BACKCOURT: Replacing four-year starting point guard Mel Cauthen and dynamic shooting guard David Wall will be difficult. Brad Richardson got plenty of time at the point last season and plays the kind of upfront defense Green loves. It may take the entire season to settle on a replacement for Wall, with Bernard Duncan, Pete Meneses, Clement Carter and Mario Myles competing for the spot. Meneses is the best shooter of the bunch. Duncan is the best defender. Carter and Myles are more versatile and more skilled overall than the others.

STRATEGY: Southern Miss has taken on the bulldog personality of its coach. The Eagles will continue to emphasize stifling half-court defense. The newcomers will need time to acclimate to the system, but they won't be alone. Even many of the returning players have not had to play extended minutes with the intensity that Green demands. Without Thompson, the burden on Mims to keep the team competitive grows. This will be a trying season unless a newcomer has a big impact.

Golden Eagles Data

Coach: James Green (87-93, 5 years).
Assistant coaches: Kyle Roane (5 years), Lustin Goodwin (1), Jeff Norwood (5), Brian Alexander (2).
2000-2001 record: 22-9. C-USA National: 11-5/11st. Lost to Mississippi State in NIT first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 75.
Last league title: 2001 (tie, National Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Hattiesburg, Miss.
Website: www.southernmiss.com
Home court: Reed Green Coliseum (8,095).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
34	G	Clement Carter	6-5/220	So.	2.7	1.7	0.4	33.7	62.5	22.2
44	G/F	Bernard Duncan	6-4/190	Sr.	2.6	1.5	0.1	37.3	63.6	18.8
1	F	David Haywood	6-4/190	Fr.	Redshirted last season.					
23	G/F	Jasper Johnson	6-7/230	Fr.	Will be thrust into starting role.					
00	C	Ben Lambert	6-9/240	Jr.	JC transfer brings bulk.					
3	G	Pete Meneses	6-4/205	Sr.	3.7	0.8	0.5	34.8	62.5	33.3
42	F	Elvin Mims	6-5/205	Sr.	10.0	5.4	0.7	44.7	64.9	40.6
21	G	Mario Myles*	6-5/190	Jr.	6.1	3.9	1.6	47.4	28.0	38.0
30	G	James Pattman Jr.	6-1/191	Fr.	Led high school team to state title.					
2	G	Brad Richardson	6-1/185	Sr.	5.9	2.2	2.4	34.5	77.3	31.0
4	C	Carey Rigsby	6-9/230	Jr.	JC transfer could help inside defensively.					
15	G	Dante Stiggers	6-2/160	Fr.	Was MVP of his district in high school.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Mel Cauthen*	6-0/175	5.9	2.2	3.2	39.0	76.3	36.0
C	Vandarel Jones*	6-9/230	12.7	7.4	0.7	61.7	61.8	0.0
F	Kilavorous Thompson*	6-7/220	Likely out for season with knee injury.					
G	David Wall*	6-5/225	14.0	3.2	1.2	40.4	65.6	39.9

Schedule

D18	Millsaps	J18	Memphis	F12	at East Carolina
N17	Jackson State	D22	W. Kentucky	J23	at Houston
N23	West Virginia*	D29	at Auburn	J26	at TCU
N27	Alcorn State	J5	at Memphis	J29	St. Louis
D1	Arkansas State	J8	at South Florida	F2	at Tulane
D5	at South Alabama	J12	UAB	F5	Houston
D15	Morris Brown	J15	Tulane	F9	Marquette
					Classic

7. Houston

National Rank: 202

FRONTCOURT: So long, Alton Ford. And good riddance. As talented as the former McDonald's All American might have been, his presence was disruptive at best and poisonous at worst. Nebraska transfer Louis Truscott is a more welcome addition and is expected to contribute immediately. With George Williams and Patrick Okafor returning to the frontcourt, Truscott has more than enough help. Williams is one of Conference USA's most versatile talents and should be much improved after a year under coach Ray McCallum. Houston needs Williams to become the all-conference player he looked like as a freshman. Okafor is a capable rebounder who really might be something if he had range past five feet. Junior college transfer Jeremie McGuire, at 6-10, 215, is the closest thing to a true center on the roster.

BACKCOURT: Kevin Gaines, late of Michigan, will join the Cougars after the first semester. Gaines and senior Dominic Smith should make for an interesting backcourt combination. Both are great playmakers. Smith brought a toughness and tenacity that helped McCallum establish a grittier Cougar ethic last season. Gaines will not be given a starting spot, however. Thanks to veteran Marcus Oliver, he will have to earn it. But Oliver hit only 23.7 percent of his 3-point attempts last season and finished with more turnovers (42) than assists (41). Watch for Gaines and Smith to log the majority of backcourt minutes.

STRATEGY: McCallum has instilled a defensive mind-set with the team that was lacking in the Clyde Drexler coaching era. The Cougars must build on that foundation. Gaines and Truscott will help make the team more competitive, and Williams' skills and athleticism could help. There is not much depth, so the team needs to grind it out and shorten games. Houston could exceed its six C-USA wins of last season.

Cougars Data

Coach: Ray McCallum (9-20, 1 year; 135-96 overall, 8 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: John Fitzpatrick (1 year), Jerry Francis (1), Brian Hecker (1).
2000-2001 record: 9-20. C-USA

National: 6-10/5th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 160.
Last league title: 1992 (tie, Southwest).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Houston.
Website: www.uhcougars.com
Home court: Hofheinz Pavilion (8,749).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
2	G	Kevin Gaines	6-4/185	So.	Playmaker will get plenty of minutes.					
5	F	Jeremie McGuire	6-10/215	Jr.	Has a chance to crack the starting rotation.					
43	F	Patrick Okafor*	6-8/235	Sr.	10.7	8.6	0.5	49.5	67.2	—
3	G	Marcus Oliver*	6-3/200	Jr.	5.9	3.2	1.4	33.5	64.8	23.7
20	G	Andre Owens	6-2/200	So.	Known for his defense.					
31	G	Terry Price	6-4/190	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	—	0.0
24	G	Bryan Shelton	6-4/175	Fr.	Smart, hard worker needs to get stronger.					
1	G	Dominic Smith*	5-10/175	Sr.	12.6	2.7	3.8	36.8	88.8	35.6
15	F	Louis Truscott	6-7/215	Jr.	Transfer (Nebraska) could help right away.					
42	F	George Williams*	6-8/215	Jr.	13.5	7.3	1.5	50.7	67.9	36.4

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Alton Ford*	6-9/265	10.8	5.9	0.6	43.2	60.9	26.5
G/F	Chad Hendrick	6-5/210	9.3	4.0	1.7	40.7	58.7	28.9

Schedule

D23	NC State	J23	Southern Miss.	F19	Tulane
N19-21	Maui Invitational	D30	Tennessee State	J26	Memphis
N29	Rice	J1	at Georgetown	J29	at San Diego St.
D2	North Texas	J5	at Saint Louis	F2	Charlotte
D4	Texas Southern	J8	at Tulane	F5	at Southern Miss.
D14	Texas Tech	J12	Cincinnati	F9	at TCU
D16	SW Texas State	J15	TCU	F12	South Florida
D20	at LSU	J18	at UAB	F16	at Memphis

ATLANTIC 10

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY

For more than a decade, the Atlantic 10 has tried to compare itself to the big-brother Big East, and every time the A-10 does that, its more established, TV-friendly rival hits the accelerator and zooms ahead in the nation's hoop consciousness. It's time to end that fruitless pursuit. The Atlantic 10 never will surpass the Big East on a regular basis, and that's just fine.

Parents often are advised to develop self-esteem in their offspring. Let the kids learn to love themselves, rather than pining for the popularity or perfect abs of the in crowd at school.

The A-10 should be the same way. Embrace Fordham's dinky Rose Hill Gym. Size doesn't matter. Tradition does. Fret not about an erratic national TV appearance. With increased exposure comes

increased scrutiny that sometimes even a vat of Clearasil can't overcome. Stop asking why small, Catholic colleges in the Big East, such as Seton Hall, Georgetown and Providence, are more popular than the A-10's St. Joseph's, St. Bonaventure and Xavier. God doesn't play favorites.

If the A-10 takes a hard look at itself this year, it just might like what it sees. St. Joe's and Temple are in TSN's preseason top 25. Xavier and Dayton have serious NCAA Tournament aspirations. Newcomer Richmond is better than Virginia Tech, the school it replaces. Fordham and Massachusetts will be dangerous teams. Even Rhode Island has something to look forward to: a new arena for the 2002-03 season. So forget about the Big East. The A-10 is just fine.

ASCENDING: Fordham. The Rams won only four league games last year, but the arrival of guards Smush Parker and Adrian Walton and forward Cori Spencer's expected full recovery from knee surgery give Fordham depth and a level of talent it hasn't had in years.

DESCENDING: George Washington. The Colonials, who played in the NCAA Tournament as recently as 1999, flirted with the first division last year before fading at the end. Even though new coach Karl Hobbs can be expected to do some good things in D.C. (such as teach some defense), the Colonials will need a year or two to get back into serious contention.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Those of guard Monty Mack, Massachusetts. All he did last year was score 19.5 points per game for a team that often struggled to break 65. No one Minuteman can hope to replace his production, although it's possible that a committee of UMass players might handle the task. That shows how valuable Mack was.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Chris Monroe, George Washington. He

averaged 18.7 points, 6.1 rebounds and 2.7 assists last year and was relegated to the All-A-10 third team. Here's a 6-3 guard who can check men 5 inches taller than him and hold them down. He's also a patient, team-first performer. This year, he should get more attention.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER:

Wayne Smith, Duquesne. Smith, a senior forward, had a huge freshman year but has slid considerably since then. Last year, he appeared to be marking time. He will be

Michael Bradley, free-lance writer

Predictions

East	West
1. St. Joseph's*	1. Xavier*
2. Temple*	2. Dayton
3. Massachusetts	3. Richmond
4. Fordham	4. George Washington
5. St. Bonaventure	5. La Salle
6. Rhode Island	6. Duquesne

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jameer Nelson, St. Joseph's	6-0	190	So.
G	Lynn Greer, Temple	6-2	175	Sr.
G	Marvin O'Connor, St. Joseph's	6-4	200	Sr.
F	Rasual Butler, La Salle	6-7	205	Sr.
F/C	David West, Xavier	6-8	232	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Chris Monroe, George Washington	6-3	222	Jr.
G	J.R. Bremer, St. Bonaventure	6-2	190	Sr.
F	Bill Phillips, St. Joseph's	6-10	240	Sr.
F	Romain Sato, Xavier	6-4	195	So.
C	Kevin Lytle, Temple	6-10	260	Sr.

Player of the Year

Marvin O'Connor, St. Joseph's

Newcomer of the Year

Smush Parker, G. Fordham

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Lynn Greer, Temple
Best rebounder: David West, Xavier
Best playmaker: Jameer Nelson, St. Joseph's
Best defender: Lynn Greer, Temple
Best dunker: Marvin O'Connor, St. Joseph's
Best under 6-0: David Morris, Dayton
Best over 7-0: Alexandre Sazonov, St. Joseph's
Most versatile: Chris Monroe, George Washington
Most flamboyant: Marvin O'Connor, St. Joseph's
Best NBA prospect: Marvin O'Connor, St. Joseph's



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

After departing Villanova, Lappas must take UMass to Philly for two February games.

counted on to provide consistent production and leadership.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: With seven new coaches in a 12-team league, it's hard to fill this category, but the choice is Fordham's Bob Hill, who has pointed toward this year since taking over in the Bronx. The pressure's on him to deliver.

BEST BETS: La Salle forward Rasual Butler will average more than 20 shots a game as he tries to give the Explorers some (any?) offense. ... New Massachusetts coach Steve Lappas will not receive a warm welcome at St. Joseph's or Temple when he brings the Minutemen to Philadelphia. Lappas, a former Villanova coach, was not exactly a fan favorite at the city's other Big Five schools. ... New Rhode Island coach Jim Baron actually will pine for the dreaded St. Bonaventure winters, as the season drags on his for his overmatched Rams and the losses mount. ... No matter how many points he scores, how well he mans the point or how much facial hair he grows, Temple senior Lynn Greer still will look like he's 15 years old. Laugh now, but he'll be a happy man at age 40. ... Fordham coach Hill will not move back into a dorm room, as he did last year, but it's possible he'll serve on a blue-ribbon panel to investigate how the school can improve its cafeteria food. ... Richmond will pull off at least one upset of an unsuspecting A-10 team, thanks in large part to coach John Beilein's strategic acumen. **TSN**

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. **St. Joseph's:** It added depth up front and added a potential big-time scorer in G Delonte West.
2. **Xavier:** SG/SF Keith Jackson is the plum of a class that includes needed frontcourt reinforcement.
3. **Fordham:** Smush Parker has a great name and a slick game, and Adrian Walton can fill it up.
4. **Temple:** F Glen Elliott is 6-9 and isn't done growing; Nile Murry provides help at the point.
5. **George Washington:** F Tamal Forchion and PG T.J. Thompson should be instant starters.
6. **Dayton:** The Flyers filled up on backcourt talent. PG Mark Jones will likely play a lot.
7. **Massachusetts:** Kyle Wilson brings long-range pop that will fit nicely in team's motion attack.
8. **La Salle:** This would have been a great class had F Steve Smith qualified, but help up front is arriving.
9. **Richmond:** John Beilein loves perimeter players, and he added three good ones.
10. **St. Bonaventure:** Four international players will try to fit into Jan van Breda Kolff's uptempo system.
11. **Rhode Island:** The Rams added needed depth, help up front, but there are no immediate stars.
12. **Duquesne:** Even with three new players, fans shouldn't expect miracles.

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
St. Joseph's*	14	2	26	7	15	2	11	5
Xavier*	12	4	21	8	13	2	8	6
Temple*	12	4	24	13	12	5	12	8
Massachusetts	11	5	15	15	8	5	7	10
St. Bonaventure+	9	7	18	12	13	2	5	10
Dayton+	9	7	21	13	13	6	8	7
George Washington	6	10	14	18	10	8	4	10
La Salle	5	11	12	17	7	5	5	12
Fordham	4	12	12	17	9	6	3	11
Duquesne	3	13	9	21	8	7	1	14
Rhode Island	3	13	7	23	6	8	1	15

*Received NCAA bid. +Received NIT bid.



Lynn Greer

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Rasual Butler	LaSalle	22.1
Marvin O'Connor	St. Joseph's	22.1
Chris Monroe	G. Washington	18.7
Lynn Greer	Temple	18.2
David West	Xavier	17.8
Name	School	RPG
David West	Xavier	10.9
Kevin Lyde	Temple	8.9
Bill Phillips	St. Joseph's	8.9
Jeff McMillan	Fordham	7.8
Keith Waleskowsky	Dayton	7.7
Name	School	APG
Jameer Nelson	St. Joseph's	6.5
Julian Blanks	LaSalle	6.0
Lynn Greer	Temple	5.5
David Morris	Dayton	5.1
Marques Green	St. Bonaventure	4.4
Name	School	FG%
David West	Xavier	55.1
Kevin Lyde	Temple	51.5
Marvin O'Connor	St. Joseph's	46.5
Chris Monroe	G. Washington	41.9
J.R. Bremer	St. Bonaventure	41.8

TEAM STATS

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
St. Joseph's	33	48.2	69.3	35.6	37.6	17.9	6.2	3.9	14.5	79.5
George Washington	32	42.0	71.1	32.8	38.9	13.3	8.0	3.4	14.4	77.2
St. Bonaventure	30	43.0	70.4	36.7	34.9	13.1	7.7	1.7	13.6	74.4
Fordham	29	42.0	66.9	29.8	38.8	14.8	9.0	3.9	16.2	74.1
Xavier	29	42.7	70.3	30.3	38.8	13.7	7.2	4.0	14.3	73.4
Dayton	34	44.2	73.3	37.0	35.5	15.2	6.1	2.5	14.2	71.1
Duquesne	30	44.3	69.8	35.5	33.0	11.0	6.5	2.1	16.9	70.5
Temple	37	42.7	70.0	34.5	35.7	11.2	7.3	3.7	8.3	70.4
Rhode Island	30	41.2	69.4	27.7	33.9	13.3	8.2	3.5	16.0	69.7
La Salle	29	41.2	68.3	33.3	37.2	12.9	5.8	4.1	14.4	69.3
Massachusetts	30	42.0	66.4	32.9	36.6	13.3	6.3	5.1	14.5	68.0
Opponents' stats										
Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Temple	37	40.1	68.8	35.1	35.6	15.7	3.2	2.8	12.6	63.9
Xavier	29	40.6	63.4	29.7	35.6	13.3	6.2	4.0	15.4	65.9
Dayton	34	44.1	73.6	34.9	31.1	12.3	5.4	3.4	12.9	67.5
Massachusetts	30	41.3	70.9	32.0	35.1	10.9	6.6	3.9	14.4	68.2
St. Bonaventure	30	45.5	72.0	33.9	34.9	14.1	6.0	3.1	15.9	71.2
St. Joseph's	33	41.4	69.9	31.2	34.4	13.7	7.3	3.2	13.8	71.3
La Salle	29	42.8	71.8	33.5	37.7	14.8	7.7	3.1	14.1	71.9
George Washington	32	42.6	67.5	36.4	38.6	13.8	6.6	4.8	15.8	75.1
Duquesne	30	48.3	72.5	34.3	36.7	16.7	7.4	4.5	16.2	77.6
Fordham	29	43.8	67.8	36.8	40.9	15.4	7.7	3.6	15.9	78.9
Rhode Island	30	44.8	68.4	37.5	42.1	16.3	7.6	4.1	15.9	80.3

1. St. Joseph's

National Rank: 8

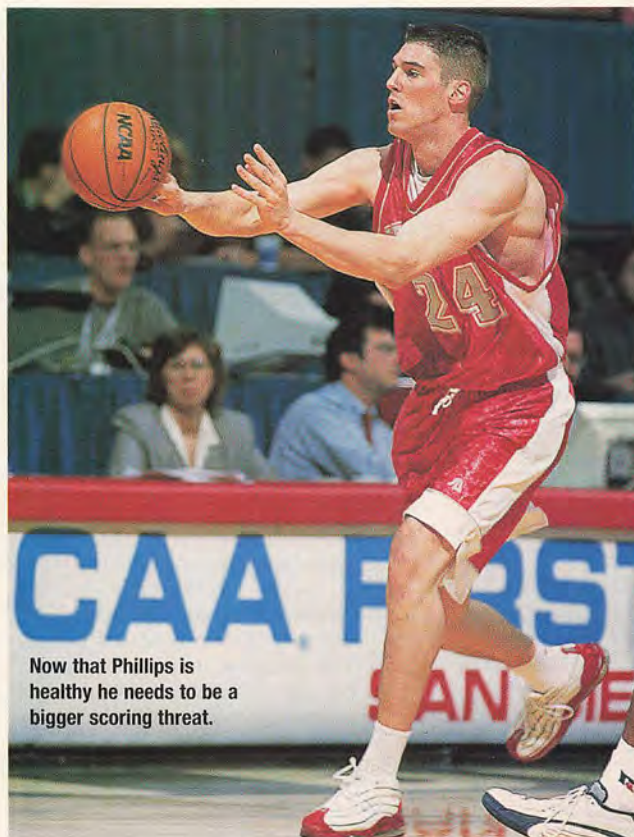
Schedule

N15-16 BCA Classic
 N25 Colorado
 N28 at Delaware
 D1 Canisius
 D8 at Penn
 D10 Drexel
 D21-22 Trn. of Champions
 D31 Gonzaga
 J5 at Massachusetts
 J9 at Rhode Island
 J12 St. Bonaventure
 J16 Fordham
 J19 G. Washington
 J23 at Duquesne
 J26 at Penn
 J30 Rhode Island
 F2 at Temple
 F6 La Salle
 F9 at Fordham
 F13 at Richmond
 F16 at Xavier
 F19 Massachusetts
 F23 Dayton
 F27 at St. Bonaventure
 M3 Temple

FRONTCOURT: By the end of last year, Bill Phillips was battling ankle and shoulder problems and couldn't run or shoot that well. That's not exactly a good combination, particularly during the NCAA Tournament. Overall, Phillips enjoyed a fine junior year for the Hawks, shedding some of the reticence that had plagued his play in 1999-2000, his first after transferring from William and Mary. Now, Phillips must become more of an offensive force, particularly closer to the basket. He has a fine stroke and good ballhandling skills and ought to continue to blossom. Center Alexandre Sazonov is on schedule for improvement, too. A fine shot blocker, Sazonov is a crowd favorite. He now must become a more ferocious rebounder and effective interior scorer. His increased strength will help there. So will a more serious approach to the game. The past two years have not been kind to senior Damian Reid, who has regressed since his strong freshman year and now risks losing playing time to the

Hawks' new frontcourt players. Reid didn't finish well last year and wasn't as effective rebounding as he was in previous seasons. Should he continue in that direction, Reid will be watching Jamal Nichols, John Bryant and perhaps even raw Dwayne Jones (a redshirt candidate) banging around. That's not the worst thing in the world because it would emphasize St. Joe's increased depth up front.

BACKCOURT: The Hawks have one of the best starting guard tandems in the country. Marvin O'Connor is a potent senior scorer, and Jameer Nelson is an outstanding point guard. O'Connor played his way into the minds of NBA scouts last year by abandoning much of his me-first game and providing bountiful scoring within the Hawks' offense. Lethal in the open court and hard to control when penetrating, O'Connor only must improve his shooting off the dribble to be a full-fledged scoring sensation. He's capable of ridiculous outbursts, such as his 18 points in 57.5 seconds against La Salle last year. Nelson isn't as flamboyant as O'Connor, but he is no less effective. Unflappable with the ball, he knows exactly when to pass and when to shoot. He's explosive and excels at creating his shot. Nelson also is a physical defender and a great leader. The truly scary thing about the Hawks is their perimeter depth. Senior Na'im Crenshaw was the A-10's top sixth man last year and has developed into a versatile wing who can shoot from long range and handle the ball well. Sophomore Tyrone Barley didn't play much as Nelson's backup last



Now that Phillips is healthy he needs to be a bigger scoring threat.

JOHN CORDS FOR TSN

year, but he does have fine defensive instincts. If he can improve his shooting, he'll get more action. Freshman Delonte West is a scorer with good range and strong skills off the dribble. He has a bright future. Swingman Pat Carroll isn't expected to average many minutes, but his outside shooting skills are intriguing.

STRATEGY: The Hawks use a motion offense that allows Nelson, O'Connor and Crenshaw to be creative, while still involving their teammates. Phillips' versatility helps out in the scheme, and Sazonov's expected improvement will help the interior attack. The Hawks aren't known for their full-court pressure, but they do like to attack in the halfcourt, the better to create turnovers and rushed shots that they can turn into easy baskets.

KEY TO THE SEASON: The Hawks were the underdog darlings who put together a thrilling run to the second round of last year's NCAA Tournament. Now they are the hunted. How well they respond to the pressure and expectations will determine their fate.

Hawks Data

Coach: Phil Martelli (107-78, 6 years; 3-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Matt Brady (8 years), Monte Ross (5), Mark Bass (2).

2000-2001 record: 26-7. Atlantic 10: 14-2/1st. Lost to Stanford in NCAA West second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 90.

Last league title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Philadelphia.

Website: www.sjuhawks.com

Home court: Alumni Memorial Fieldhouse (3,200).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Tyrone Barley	Newark, N.J.	6-1/185	So.	1.4	0.5	1.2	40.6	55.6	33.3
34	F	John Bryant	Woodbridge, Va.	6-7/220	Fr.	Could find some playing time.					
33	G/F	Pat Carroll	Horsham, Pa.	6-5/190	Fr.	Outside shooting skills worth noting.					
20	G	Na'im Crenshaw	Philadelphia	6-5/180	Sr.	11.4	3.3	2.0	41.8	75.9	39.8
3	G	Mike Farrelly	New York	6-1/175	Jr.	0.4	0.3	0.5	33.3	66.7	—
21	C	Dwayne Jones	Chester, Pa.	6-11/225	Fr.	Could be a redshirt candidate.					
10	G	Phil Martelli Jr.	Drexel Hill, Pa.	5-10/155	Jr.	0.5	0.3	0.1	66.7	—	—
2	G	Jeff Miller	Prospect Park, Pa.	6-6/215	So.	1.5	1.2	0.4	33.3	0.0	50.0
14	G	Jameer Nelson*	Chester, Pa.	6-0/190	So.	12.5	4.0	6.5	46.1	82.0	37.3
23	F	Jamal Nichols	Philadelphia	6-8/225	Fr.	Another candidate for frontcourt minutes.					
11	G	Marvin O'Connor*	Philadelphia	6-4/200	Sr.	22.1	3.7	2.6	46.5	67.6	37.4
24	F	Bill Phillips*	Collegeville, Pa.	6-10/240	Sr.	11.6	8.9	3.4	54.8	66.0	32.3
25	C	Damian Reid*	Toronto	6-9/240	Sr.	9.0	6.5	0.9	61.5	62.5	25.0
51	C	Alexandre Sazonov	Moscow	7-1/235	Jr.	4.9	3.5	0.3	56.0	63.0	—
15	G	Delonte West	Greenbelt, Md.	6-3/180	Fr.	Has good range and skills off the dribble.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Frank Wilkins*	Cambridge, Mass.	6-9/200	5.8	3.3	1.0	41.7	68.3	24.1
G	Erick Woods	St. Louis	6-5/190	3.9	1.4	0.5	41.7	76.5	33.3

2. Temple

National Rank: 24

Schedule

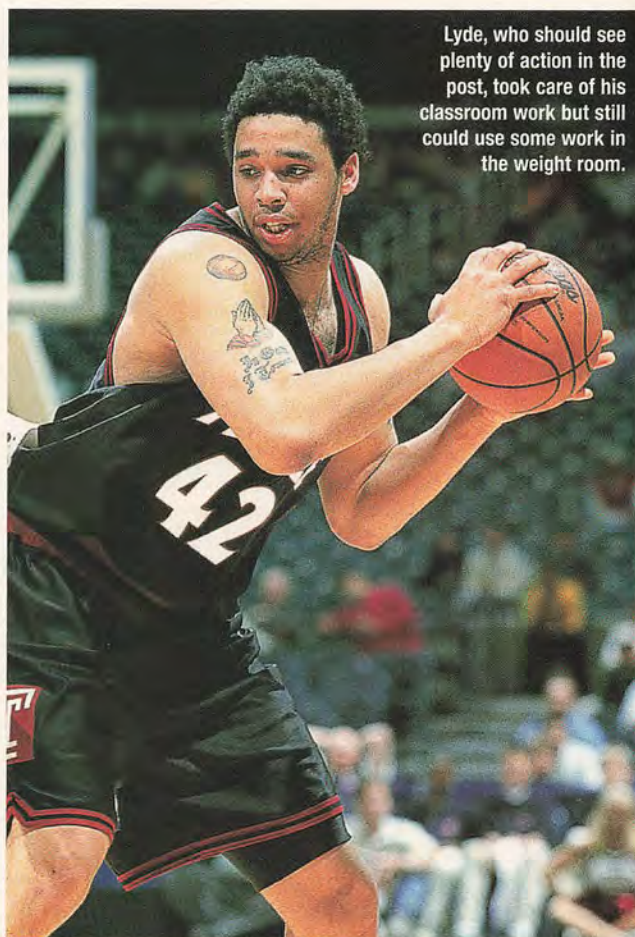
NB-9 Coaches v. Cancer Cl.*

D1	Charlotte
D5	at Duke
D8	at Villanova
D11	Penn State
D18	Alabama**
D20	Memphis
D22	DePaul
D30	Penn
J5	at Fordham
J9	Duquesne
J12	Rhode Island
J16	at St. Bonaventure
J19	at Massachusetts
J23	Richmond
J26	at NC State
J30	Fordham
F2	St. Joseph's
F6	at Rhode Island
F9	at G. Washington
F13	at La Salle
F16	Massachusetts
F20	Xavier
F23	St. Bonaventure
F27	at Dayton
M3	at St. Joseph's
*at New York	
**at East Rutherford, N.J.	

FRONT COURT: It didn't take senior Kevin Lyde long to realize his decision to enter the NBA draft was an unwise one. He came sprinting back to Temple, then devoted himself to passing four summer school courses to retain his eligibility. He'll give coach John Chaney the big man that's so integral to the Owls' success. But Lyde has work to do away from the classroom, particularly in the weight room, where his large but somewhat doughy body must be hardened. Speaking of doughy, check out Ron Rollerson. Blessed with quick feet, great hands and substantial quickness for a 6-10 player, Rollerson torpedoed his junior season by ballooning to beyond 325 pounds. (Temple insisted on listing him at 290.) The result was poor production and a late-season injury. Although Rollerson was a disappointment last year, Alex Wesby thrilled Owls fans and even Chaney (as if he'll admit it) by averaging 10.1 points a game and 5.5 rebounds. Wesby became a legitimate 3-point threat and gave the Owls a weapon they had not expected. Glen Elliott, a 6-9 freshman, should have an impact early defensively and on the boards. The Owls have enough scorers. The good news with him is that he's not done growing.

BACK COURT: Lynn Greer, who took over the point last year for Pepe Sanchez, was a good soldier last year, keeping in check his preference to bomb away, often from distant places. Greer still managed to score 18.2 points a game last season and enters this one with much the same mandate. With Quincy Wadley, last year's other primary ballhandler, gone, Chaney needs Greer to run the team and score. Now a senior, Greer understands Chaney's rules and takes care of the ball well enough to make him happy. Expect to see Greer on the wing, too, if freshman Nile Murry, a pure point from Houston, can handle the job. That's good news for Temple. Sophomore David Hawkins should slide into Wadley's job as the second backcourt weapon once he returns from academic probation in December. Hawkins showed plenty of savvy last year and has a bright future. Also expected to contribute is sophomore Brian Polk, a partial qualifier who piled up the points in high school. He'll have some rust, but expect him to put up some numbers on occasion.

STRATEGY: Now that Chaney has been elected to the Hall of Fame (long overdue), you can bet he'll be even more adamant about



Lyde, who should see plenty of action in the post, took care of his classroom work but still could use some work in the weight room.

his defense-first style. One can almost hear him rasp to his players, "If it was good enough to get my butt in the Hall, it's good enough for you." His vaunted matchup zone was mystifying to Texas, Florida and Penn State last year in the NCAA Tournament. But Chaney isn't a complete dinosaur. He used some box-and-one and man-to-man defenses last season, further confounding rivals. The Owls are deliberate on offense and use plenty of high screens to free their guards. They love to feed the post, the better to force the defense to react.

KEY TO THE SEASON: The Owls must get consistent scoring from Hawkins and/or Polk to make up for Wadley's departure. Greer can't do everything, so those two have to step up throughout the entire season.

Owls Data

Coach: John Chaney (431-179, 19 years; 656-238 overall; 29 years; 23-17 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Nate Blackwell (5 years), Dan Leibovitz (5).

2000-2001 record: 24-13. Atlantic 10: 12-4/T 2nd. Lost to Michigan State in NCAA South final.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 53.

Last league title: 2000 (A-10 East).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1989.

Site: Philadelphia.

Website: www.owlsports.com

Home court: Liacouras Center (10,206).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.
4	F	Glen Elliott	Atlantic Beach, Fla.	6-9/235
14	G	Lynn Greer*	Philadelphia	6-2/175
34	G	David Hawkins*	Washington, D.C.	6-4/215
22	G	Jay Jameson	Lansdale, Pa.	6-0/170
1	F	Greg Jefferson	Los Angeles	6-5/205
42	C	Kevin Lyde*	Washington, D.C.	6-10/260
21	G	Nile Murry	Houston	6-3/195
3	G	Brian Polk	Harbeson, Del.	6-4/205
30	C	Ron Rollerson	Pennsauken, N.J.	6-10/290
15	F	Hawley Smith	Jacksonville, Fla.	6-5/210
40	F	Rouldra Thomas	Natchez, Miss.	6-8/210
23	F	Alex Wesby*	Philadelphia	6-6/190

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.
G	Quincy Wadley*	Harrisburg, Pa.	6-4/200

*2000-2001 starter; highlighted names: projected starters

Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
Fr.	Averaged 19 ppg, 12 rpg as HS senior.					
Sr.	18.2	3.6	5.5	40.1	86.8	37.9
So.	10.4	4.4	1.2	39.8	64.6	28.6
Sr.	Transfer; played at LIU in 1998-99.					
Jr.	2.0	2.5	0.1	56.1	57.1	33.3
Sr.	12.8	8.9	1.3	51.5	56.1	0.0
Fr.	Averaged 17 ppg, six apg as HS senior.					
So.	Sat out last season as partial qualifier.					
Sr.	3.1	4.2	0.0	56.2	52.8	—
Fr.	56 percent 3-point shooter as HS senior.					
Sr.	0.2	0.7	0.1	11.1	50.0	0.0
Sr.	10.1	5.5	1.0	39.3	65.4	32.5

3. Massachusetts

National Rank: 68

FRONTCOURT: Options abound here, thanks to the return of starters Micah Brand and Kitwana Rhymer, plus numerous holdovers and a couple of promising newcomers. If everything works out, it could be a pretty good rotation. Rhymer may not overwhelm people with his skills, but he's a strong positional rebounder and a big obstacle on defense. Brand is more athletic, but he needs to be more consistent and aggressive. Jackie Rogers can bang some and step away. Willie Jenkins looked good early last year and disappeared. He gets a second chance under new coach Steve Lappas. Freshman Brennan Martin can slash and shoot, and sophomore wing Raheim Lamb, a partial qualifier last year, plays well off the dribble.

BACKCOURT: Yes, the Minutemen will miss Monty Mack. He was a 20-point per night scorer on a team that had little firepower beyond him. But Lappas' motion attack has some components that might just come through. The point guard spot is in good shape, thanks as much to sophomore Anthony Anderson, a partial qualifier who sat out last year, as to returning starter Shannon Crooks, a senior with talent but erratic production. There is no clear candidate for shooting guard, but Lappas has options. He could use sophomore Jameel Pugh or freshman Kyle Wilson, a long-range specialist.

STRATEGY: Lappas is going to run the same motion offense he ran at Villanova, and that will be good overall for these Minutemen, though the coach's insistence on using that style may hurt when situations call for isolations or if one player has a hot hand. UMass will use mostly man-to-man on defense, but don't be surprised to see a dose of zone, particularly when Brand and Rhymer are in together. By season's end, this could be a dangerous team that might surprise some people in the A-10 tournament.

Minutemen Data

Coach: Steve Lappas (1st year; 230-172 overall, 13 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: John Leonard (1st year), Andrew Theokas (1st year), Chris Walker (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 15-15. Atlantic 10: 11-5/4th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 41.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Amherst, Mass.
Website: www.umassathletics.com
Home court: Mullins Center (9,493).

Roster		*2000-2001 starter; highlighted names: projected starters									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%	
11	G	Anthony Anderson	5-11/175	So.	Partial qualifier last season.						
3	F	Ronell Blizard	6-8/205	Sr.	1.6	1.6	0.6	28.8	50.0	29.4	
40	C	Micah Brand*	6-11/243	Jr.	8.4	4.7	0.6	46.0	66.3	—	
30	G	Shannon Crooks*	6-2/222	Sr.	9.0	3.5	3.2	36.2	68.2	24.3	
4	F/G	Willie Jenkins	6-6/200	So.	0.7	0.4	0.2	22.7	25.0	21.4	
12	G	Dwayne Killings	6-0/180	So.	0.6	0.4	0.0	50.0	—	100.0	
34	F	Raheim Lamb	6-5/190	So.	Partial qualifier last season.						
	F	Brennan Martin	6-6/190	Fr.	He can slash and has a bit of a shot.						
24	G	Jameel Pugh	6-5/200	So.	1.2	0.8	0.2	28.6	20.0	15.4	
2	F	Jackie Rogers	6-8/230	Sr.	6.6	3.9	0.5	55.3	50.0	—	
33	C	Kitwana Rhymer*	6-10/256	Sr.	9.9	7.3	0.7	50.5	68.7	—	
21	F	Eric Williams	6-8/243	Sr.	3.8	3.5	0.5	54.1	52.7	25.0	
	G	Kyle Wilson	6-2/175	Fr.	Known for his long-range shooting.						

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jonathan DePina*	5-9/185	5.8	2.2	3.1	34.9	73.7	34.9
G	Monty Mack*	6-3/200	19.5	2.9	1.9	38.6	78.1	36.4
F	Winston Smith	6-5/228	3.1	3.2	2.1	38.5	56.3	33.3

Schedule

N16	Ark.-Little Rock	D11	Connecticut	J16	at Richmond	F9	La Salle
N24	Marist	D15	Central Conn.	J19	Temple	F13	St. Bonaventure
N27	Oregon	D23	Maine	J23	G. Washington	F16	at Temple
D1	at NC State	D29	at Marshall	J26	at St. Bonaventure	F19	at St. Joseph's
D4	Holy Cross	J5	St. Joseph's	J30	Dayton	F23	Fordham
D8	at Boston College	J9	Ohio State	F2	at Rhode Island	F27	Rhode Island
		J12	at Fordham	F6	at Duquesne	M2	at Xavier

Rams Data

Coach: Bob Hill (26-32, 2 years).
Assistant coaches: Mike Brown (3 years), Shay Berry (1), Cameron Hill (1).
2000-2001 record: 12-17. Atlantic 10: 4-12/9th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 93.
Last league title: 1994 (tie, Patriot).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Bronx, N.Y.
Website: www.fordham.edu/athletics
Home court: Rose Hill Gym (3,470).

Roster		*2000-2001 starter; highlighted names: projected starters									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%	
23	G	A. Acquaviva	6-4/190	So.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	
24	F	Steve Canal	6-6/236	Sr.	4.0	4.1	1.0	47.3	62.8	0.0	
20	G	Chris Duckrey	6-6/200	So.	1.1	0.1	0.2	55.6	0.0	0.0	
1	G/F	Michael Haynes	6-8/215	So.	5.6	2.3	0.9	28.6	55.6	19.7	
11	G	Mark Jarrell-Wright	6-5/187	So.	Transfer from Providence College.						
5	F	Teremun Johnson*	6-6/205	Sr.	9.8	3.6	2.3	47.0	48.6	33.3	
42	F	Freeman-McKamey*	6-9/215	Sr.	10.5	6.9	0.8	52.1	76.6	0.0	
4	F	Jeff McMillan*	6-8/250	So.	10.0	7.8	0.7	52.3	45.6	—	
21	G	Smush Parker	6-4/190	So.	Transfer from S. Idaho Junior College.						
34	F	Cori Spencer	6-7/250	Fr.	Redshirted because of a knee injury.						
10	G	Tyrone Stallings	6-3/180	Jr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	
55	F	Liberto Tetimadingar	6-8/205	So.	2.7	2.0	0.2	40.0	62.5	20.0	
3	G	Adrian Walton	6-2/185	Fr.	He loves to shoot.						

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Jason Harris*	5-9/175	11.2	2.1	2.5	34.4	69.6	33.2
F	Arseni Kuchinsky	6-7/210	8.3	3.5	1.7	40.4	86.3	36.3
G	Bevon Robin*	6-2/200	14.3	4.1	5.1	39.0	81.3	28.5

Schedule

N12	at DePaul*	D22	Northwestern	J23	St. Bonaventure	F23	at Massachusetts
N19	at South Florida	D27-28	ECAC Festival	J26	La Salle	F27	at Richmond
N24	Siena	J2	at Holy Cross	J30	at Temple	M2	Geo. Washington
N28	at Iona	J5	Temple	F2	at Duquesne		*Preseason NIT
D1	at St. John's	J9	at Xavier	F6	Dayton		
D8	at Marquette	J12	Massachusetts	F9	St. Joseph's		
D19	Delaware State*	J16	at St. Joseph's	F13	Rhode Island		
		J19	at Rhode Island	F16	at St. Bonaventure		

4. Fordham

National Rank: 93

FRONTCOURT: Coach Bob Hill has plenty of options here, thanks to the return of three starters and redshirt freshman Cori Spencer's expected full recovery from knee surgery. The main man is sophomore Jeff McMillan. With a little more polish and consistency, he could be awesome. Duke Freeman-McKamey isn't flashy, but he's a productive soldier inside. Teremun Johnson is another role player who doesn't look for praise. However, one or both may lose their starting jobs. Spencer is a rugged inside player with enough athletic ability to move on the break. He should work well with McMillan. Also looking to break into the first five is Michael Haynes, a multidimensional talent who didn't hit the court until the second semester of last year and had trouble shaking off the rust. Senior Steve Canal is a capable banger off the bench.

BACKCOURT: This looks like trouble—on paper. The losses of four-year stalwarts Bevon Robin and Jason Harris leave big holes in the starting lineup, but reinforcements are on the way. Sophomore Smush (pronounced Smoosh) Parker is a great penetrator and distributor with a game perfect for Hill's uptempo system. Freshman Adrian Walton carries with him the legend of having once outscored Vince Carter, 33-31, in a game in New York's renowned Rucker League summer tournament. Providence transfer Mark Jarrell-Wright is athletic and quick and can get to the hoop. There isn't much depth here, although Haynes and Johnson can swing into the backcourt when needed.

STRATEGY: The Rams are going to press and run, and that will make Hill, who flirted with the Cleveland Cavaliers during the off-season, happy. He wants to coach these players, particularly McMillan, Spencer, Haynes, Parker and Walton. They fit perfectly into his system. The young Rams may not be ready for NCAA contention, but an NIT invitation is a distinct possibility.

5. St. Bonaventure

National Rank: 102

FRONTCOURT: After losing Peter Van Paassen, the Bonnies can't be too certain about who will provide their interior scoring. Vidal Massiah made a big jump last year, but he is likely to produce only 10 to 12 points per game. Robert Cheeks has yet to emerge as a consistent performer, and the departure of Quadir Habeeb robs the Bonnies of another candidate. So, the newcomers must produce. Lithuanian import Saulis Dumbliuskas has good all-around skills but isn't expected to be a major force close to the basket. Anthony Ighodaro can shoot well, but he needs more strength. Patrick Methot-Lottin has excellent range.

BACKCOURT: If the Bonnies are to be successful, it will be because of their guards. New coach Jan van Breda Kolff, who wants to press and push the ball, has to love what he has in the backcourt. J.R. Bremer is an excellent combo man who can score in bushels while keeping everybody involved. Expect to see him at the point or playing off-guard, next to 5-7 Marques Green, a playmaker and penetrator who must improve his shooting. Patricio Prato cooled considerably last year, after his fine debut, as defenses paid more attention to him and forced him to drive, something he was not comfortable doing. Expect to see freshman Mike Gansey on the floor a lot. He can play shooting guard or small forward and has good shooting and passing skills. Jabulah Murray reminds van Breda Kolff of Bremer because he can play with the ball or on the wing. He penetrates well but also can finish inside and out.

STRATEGY: This club has a great perimeter outlook, but rebounding could be a problem. That's not the best way to start van Breda Kolff's running game. Massiah will be counted on because he is the most experienced frontcourt player. If Cheeks can provide some board work, the Bonnies might be OK because they have plenty of shooters and ballhandlers.

Bonnies Data

Coach: Jan van Breda Kolff (1st year; 174-128 overall, 10 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Kenny Blakeney (1st year), Billy McCaffrey (1st year), Kort Wickenheiser (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 18-12. Atlantic 10:

9-7/T 5th. Lost to Pittsburgh in NIT first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 103.

Last league title: 1983 (tie, A-10 West).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Olean, N.Y.

Website: www.gobonnies.com

Home court: Reilly Center (6,000).

Roster		*2000-2001 starter; highlighted names: projected starter								
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
2	G	J.R. Bremer*	6-2/190	Sr.	16.6	3.9	4.2	41.8	73.5	37.6
10	F	Robert Cheeks	6-6/190	Sr.	2.0	2.9	0.5	35.2	57.6	0.0
		F S. Dumbliuskas	6-8/225	Fr.	Versatile, fundamentally sound post player.					
	G/F	Mike Gansey	6-4/190	Fr.	Swingman will compete for playing time.					
4	G	Marques Green	5-7/150	So.	6.2	1.6	4.4	44.3	80.4	47.6
	F	Anthony Ighodaro	6-7/200	Fr.	Shoots well; needs to add strength.					
1	F	Vidal Massiah*	6-6/215	Sr.	9.1	4.6	1.0	46.5	62.2	38.8
	G/F	P. Methot-Lottin	6-6/210	Fr.	Can shoot from long range.					
50	C	Marlon Miller	6-9/230	Jr.	Transferred from Nevada.					
	G	Jabulah Murray	6-2/180	Fr.	Combo guard likely to back up Bremer.					
20	G	Patricio Prato	6-4/200	Jr.	6.0	3.4	1.2	38.7	60.9	32.1
44	C	Elton Ruddock	6-8/235	Sr.	1.0	1.3	0.0	80.0	40.0	—
35	F	Andy Stinson	6-6/215	Sr.	0.5	0.7	0.0	33.3	25.0	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	James Hayden*	6-3/190	2.0	1.8	0.5	34.1	62.5	25.0
G/F	Kevin Houston*	6-4/215	19.5	6.9	0.7	42.0	81.3	35.4
C/F	Peter Van Paassen*	6-11/265	14.6	4.6	0.8	50.2	67.2	0.0

Schedule

D12	Ohio	J12	at St. Joseph's	F9	Xavier
N20	at Cleveland St.	D15	at Canisius	J16	Temple
N24	Niagara	D20	at Siena	J19	Duquesne
N28	Boston College	D31	at Kent	J23	at Fordham
D1	at Toledo	J3	at G. Washington	J26	Massachusetts
D5	at Oklahoma	J5	Rhode Island	F3	at Dayton
D8	Wis.-Green Bay	J9	at La Salle	F6	Richmond

6. Rhode Island

National Rank: 200

FRONTCOURT: If senior Marcus Evans plays, it won't be until the second semester because of shaky grades. He started 23 games last year and can rebound, even if his offensive game is rudimentary. There's little beyond him. Freshman Jamaal Wise can shoot pretty well, and Troy Wiley brings a reputation for scoring inside from the junior college ranks, although his 6-8, 195-pound frame isn't built for endurance. The other fresh face up front is junior college import Chaz Briggs. He is athletic and can jump but isn't enough for the Rams to ward off the bigger teams on the schedule.

BACKCOURT: By the end of last year, Dinno Daniels and Brian Woodward were starting at guard, and both return. Daniels is a good distributor and adequate scorer. Woodward has the potential to be a big producer, provided he remains healthy. They are a pretty good foundation for new coach Jim Baron. Junior Howard Smith can play both guard spots but is best-suited for 10 to 15 minutes a night, as is sophomore Steve Mello, another combo guard. There will be plenty of work for freshman shooter Dustin Hellenga, particularly if he can play some defense on the wing.

STRATEGY: Baron likes to play solid halfcourt defense, run when he can and make use of the 3-point shot. That's in a perfect world. This year is far from perfect, so Baron will use whatever he can to stay close. Expect a hailstorm of treys from the perimeter and some scrambling defenses, in the hopes of masking the team's inadequacies inside. Baron's move from the stable, successful St. Bonaventure program to Kingston will look like a good one—in time. The Rams return only four scholarship players from last year's team. Welcome to Rhode Island, Jim. There is one big plus, however: Next season, the Rams will christen an 8,000-seat arena that's on the campus. That should help the team's recruiting efforts.

Rams Data

Coach: Jim Baron (1st year; 206-202 overall, 14 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Desmond Oliver (1st year), Tyrone Weeks (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 7-23. Atlantic 10: 3-13/11th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 208.

Last league title: 1981 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Kingston, R.I.

Website: www.gorhody.com

Home court: Keaney Gymnasium (3,385).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; highlighted names: projected starters							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	Chaz Briggs	6-7/210	Jr.	Transfer from Wabash Valley (Ill.) College.					
2	G	Dinno Daniels*	6-0/175	Sr.	11.6	2.1	3.3	37.7	77.9	25.7
54	F/C	Marcus Evans*	6-9/250	Sr.	4.3	5.1	0.4	40.0	60.3	—
	G	Dustin Hellenga	6-4/210	Fr.	Bruising guard who can hit 3-pointers.					
23	G	Steve Mello	6-1/178	So.	3.4	1.3	1.0	40.4	63.6	37.5
	G	Dawan Robinson	6-3/185	Fr.	Good defender with quick hands.					
55	G	Howard Smith	6-0/175	Jr.	4.4	2.9	3.5	33.6	73.2	23.6
	F	Troy Wiley	6-8/195	Jr.	Transfer from Paris (Texas) Junior College.					
	F	Jamaal Wise	6-5/190	Fr.	Averaged 24.7 points as H.S. senior.					
20	G	Brian Woodward	6-3/180	Jr.	13.9	4.9	3.0	37.5	70.8	32.3

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Tavorris Bell*	6-6/210	19.6	5.7	0.9	53.6	70.0	37.0
G	Zach Marbury*	6-3/185	16.9	4.0	2.5	45.6	68.6	23.7
F	Andre Scott*	6-9/225	4.0	4.3	0.5	32.6	52.8	0.0
C	Andrew Wafula	6-10/195	4.3	5.1	0.4	40.0	60.3	0.0
F	Tiger Womack	6-9/210	7.3	5.6	0.9	33.8	50.0	35.3

Schedule

N20	at Virginia Tech	D11	at Yale	J19	Fordham	F13	at Fordham
N24	Iona	D15	at Pittsburgh	J23	Xavier	F16	at Dayton
N27	at Fairfield	D22	Northeastern	J26	at G. Washington	F20	Richmond
N29	Buffalo	D28	Brown	J30	at St. Joseph's	F23	at La Salle
D1	Providence	J5	at St. Bonaventure	F2	Massachusetts	F27	at Massachusetts
D4	at USC	J9	St. Joseph's	F6	Temple	M2	St. Bonaventure

1. Xavier

National Rank: 26

FRONTCOURT: When David West sat down last year, the Musketeers slowed considerably up front, thanks to lead-footed Reggie Butler. Although Will Caudle and Anthony Coleman, the two new faces inside, are not ready for all-league consideration, they are considerably more athletic and quicker than Butler. That should help a lot defensively because new coach Thad Matta favors an aggressive halfcourt system. West is the league's best big man. He blossomed into a substantial force last season and shouldn't drop off at all this year, particularly because he will have some support. When West is paired with Caudle or Coleman, hard-working Kevin Frey, who is a consistent producer, might slide to small forward.

BACKCOURT: The Musketeers took a couple of hits here. Xavier still should be in good shape, provided Lionel Chalmers, who did a little bit of everything last year along the perimeter, can settle in at the point and provide consistent outside shooting. He'll team with Romain Sato, a lively defender, fine outside shooter and slasher, and perhaps highly touted freshman Keith Jackson. Neither Jackson nor Sato is a classic shooting guard, but each takes the ball off the dribble well and will cause some mismatch problems. Look for freshman Jaison Williams to back up Chalmers at the point and slide occasionally to the shooting guard spot.

STRATEGY: With former coach Skip Prosser gone, Xavier will be less of a press-and-run team. But Matta isn't going to sit back. Xavier will attack in the halfcourt, much as it did last year. The offense will work inside out, with West getting plenty of touches. Sato, Chalmers and Jackson will need to knock down some 3s to keep defenses off West. The Musketeers should extend their streak of 20-win seasons to six, but they need steady backcourt play and contributions from the youngsters to do more.

Musketeers Data

Coach: Thad Matta (1st year; 24-8 overall, 1 year; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Sean Miller (1st year), John Groce (1st year), Alan Major (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 21-8. Atlantic 10:

12-4/T 2nd. Lost to Notre Dame in NCAA Midwest first round.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 27.
Last league title: 1998 (tie, A-10 West).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Cincinnati.
Website: athletics.xu.edu
Home court: Cintas Center (10,250).

Roster		*2000-2001 starter; highlighted names: projected starters									
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%	
45	F	James Baronas	6-8/240	Sr.	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	
24	G	Alvin Brown	6-3/180	Sr.	1.7	0.4	0.3	52.0	58.3	0.0	
53	F	Ryan Caldwell	6-5/245	Jr.	0.0	1.0	0.0	—	—	—	
	F	Will Caudle	6-9/220	Fr.	Improves frontcourt athletic ability.						
0	G	Lionel Chalmers	6-0/178	Jr.	8.9	2.2	1.9	36.5	67.1	30.2	
	F	Anthony Coleman	6-9/210	So.	Took a medical redshirt last season.						
54	F	Tom Compton	6-10/220	So.	2.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	—	—	
3	F	Kevin Frey*	6-8/235	Sr.	11.4	6.3	1.1	43.2	77.0	25.8	
	G/F	Keith Jackson	6-5/195	Fr.	His driving ability will be a plus.						
22	G	Andre Johnson	5-9/158	Jr.	0.5	0.0	0.0	25.0	—	0.0	
10	G/F	Romain Sato*	6-4/195	So.	10.7	5.4	1.4	38.6	73.0	37.4	
	G	Jaison Williams	6-3/190	Fr.	All-state star in Colorado.						
30	F/C	David West*	6-8/232	Jr.	17.8	10.9	2.0	55.1	74.0	0.0	
13	G	Dave Young	6-4/210	Jr.	2.5	1.1	0.2	37.1	45.5	32.3	

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Reggie Butler	6-10/255	2.5	2.4	0.6	52.4	62.1	—
G	Maurice McAfee*	6-0/175	9.5	2.7	4.8	36.8	72.3	26.5
G/F	Lloyd Price*	6-5/208	9.2	4.4	1.6	40.0	65.1	25.0

Schedule

D10	Wisconsin	J16	at G. Washington	F13	G. Washington
N17	Coastal Carolina	D14	Cincinnati	J19	at La Salle
N20	Siena	D20	Kent State	J23	at Rhode Island
N24	Missouri*	D22	at Creighton	J26	Dayton
N28	at Miami (Ohio)	J5	at Dayton	J30	Duquesne
D1	at San Francisco	J9	Fordham	F2	at Richmond
D5	at Purdue	J12	Richmond	F9	at St. Bona.
D8	Long Island				*at Indianapolis

2. Dayton

National Rank: 53

FRONTCOURT: Nobody expected Keith Waleskowski to have a significant impact last year, but he was the Flyers' top frontcourt scorer and the team's leading rebounder. That proved how inexact a science recruiting is and just how weak the Flyers' overall front line was. Things should be better this year. Sean Finn, a 6-11 sophomore, looked good during Dayton's summer sojourn to Australia—when he could stay out of foul trouble. Jason Osborne missed last year because of knee and shoulder problems. He has good hands and should help on the backboards. And don't forget about holdovers Nate Green and Yuanta Holland, who shared the power forward spot last year.

BACKCOURT: One might have expected that Tony Stanley's departure would have triggered some mourning among the Flyers' faithful. But Stanley struggled last year, producing erratically and failing to provide a full-time perimeter force. Although Dayton has no one capable of replacing him, it could well be better on the perimeter. The arrivals of smooth point Mark Jones and slashing lefty D.J. Stelly give coach Oliver Purnell plenty of options. The key to the guard play is junior Brooks Hall, who now will be asked to become the team's primary wing scorer and a leader. Injuries and a willingness to defer to his elders kept Hall in the back-ground, but he has the skills to be a force. Expect to see senior David Morris at the point again.

STRATEGY: The Flyers' improved depth should allow Purnell to be more aggressive defensively, in the hopes of creating some run-outs and easy shots. This team isn't built for the halfcourt, so some more pressing and breaking are in order. Still, Dayton will need somebody to be a reliable perimeter producer. If Hall steps up, then Dayton becomes extremely dangerous, thanks to Waleskowski's interior talent and the squad's overall depth.

Flyers Data

Coach: Oliver Purnell (110-79, 7 years; 211-174 overall, 13 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Ron Jirsa (2 years), Josh Postorino (1st year), Frank Smith (7 years).
2000-2001 record: 21-13; Atlantic 10:

9-7/T5th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 51.
Last league title: 2000 (A-10 West).
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Dayton, Ohio.
Website: www.daytonflyers.com
Home court: University of Dayton Arena (13,455).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; highlighted names: projected starters							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
54	C	Sean Finn	6-11/230	So.	1.1	1.7	.04	41.4	53.3	—
5	F	Nate Green*	6-6/235	Jr.	9.0	4.2	0.9	56.5	67.4	0.0
33	F/G	Brooks Hall*	6-6/205	Jr.	9.2	4.6	2.5	36.8	75.5	37.7
23	F	Yuanta Holland	6-7/220	Sr.	9.1	5.3	0.7	52.9	68.0	0.0
14	G	Mark Jones	6-1/170	Fr.	Chosen Connecticut's top H.S. player.					
13	G	Greg Kohls	6-2/167	So.	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	—	0.0
3	G	Ramod Marshall	6-2/180	So.	8.6	2.0	2.7	42.9	82.6	41.7
15	G	David Morris*	5-10/185	Sr.	6.9	2.0	5.1	36.8	70.2	34.0
44	F/C	Jason Osborne	6-7/260	So.	Redshirted last season (knee, shoulder).					
32	G/F	Sammy Smith	6-5/200	So.	1.4	1.2	0.7	34.1	33.3	29.4
2	G/F	D.J. Stelly	6-4/193	Jr.	Transferred from Northeastern JC (Colo.).					
45	C/F	Keith Waleskowski*	6-9/230	So.	11.3	7.7	1.1	55.2	84.3	0.0

Key Loss

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Tony Stanley*	6-4/200	15.9	5.1	1.8	38.3	73.5	37.5

Schedule

D15	Purdue*	J23	at La Salle	F20	at G. Washington
N18	Toledo	D18	Austin Peay	J26	at Xavier
N21	Central Michigan	D22	Saint Louis	J30	at Massachusetts
N24	at Villanova	D29	Miami (Ohio)	F3	St. Bonaventure
N28	at Cincinnati	J5	Xavier	F6	at Fordham
D1	Morehead State	J9	Geo. Washington	F9	at Richmond
D5	at Marquette	J12	at Duquesne	F13	Duquesne
D8	Eastern Kentucky	J19	Richmond	F16	Rhode Island

3. Richmond

National Rank: 58

FRONTCOURT: The big men at Richmond had better be ready to move or they won't get much time in coach John Beilein's system. But even the most mobile team needs some heft, and that's why the Spiders have 6-9, 240-pound junior Eric Zwyer. They also have 6-11, 225-pound senior Tim Faulconer if needed. These two won't impress anyone with their offense, but both rebound fairly well and can defend. Expect freshman Patrick O'Malley to work outside in and take a good amount of jump shots. Jermaine Bucknor is another tall man who likes life on the perimeter. Neither O'Malley nor Bucknor is likely to approach the numbers posted by forward Greg Stevenson, who is gone. Sophomore Mike Skrocki could end up getting a spot in the starting lineup.

BACKCOURT: Scott Ungerer isn't the typical point guard. He is 6-7, but he can distribute the ball. He also is capable of guarding some opposing big men. Just don't ask him to score a lot. That job will be split between returning starter Reggie Brown and Virginia Tech transfer Tony Dobbins. Dobbins is a scorer who is better suited for life close to the basket; Brown can shoot and is a good passer. Freshman Jason Morton will back up Ungerer along with Jeff Myers. All three fit well into the Richmond approach of working the shot clock and looking for open 3-point shots.

STRATEGY: Impatient teams, beware. Richmond isn't an exciting club, but it works the shot clock well, makes good use of its myriad perimeter weapons and plays tenacious halfcourt defense. No, Richmond isn't going to overpower anybody, and that will hurt when it has to face Temple, Xavier, St. Joseph's and Massachusetts. But the Spiders will counter with a capable perimeter attack that requires constant attention. The maiden voyage in the Atlantic 10 won't be a smash hit, but it will certainly be successful enough to warrant NIT consideration.

4. George Washington

National Rank: 108

FRONTCOURT: The Colonials weren't exactly blessed with a collection of beasts in the middle when Tom Penders was running his drag-racing style, but things look even worse this year. Senior Jaason Smith is an athletic forward who occasionally can put together a double-figure scoring effort, but his strengths are defense and rebounding. Albert Roma goes 7-0, but that about ends his allure. New coach Karl Hobbs will need immediate help from newcomers Tamal Forchion, who bring toughness, and rangy wing Darrio Scott, whose athletic ability will help in the open court. X factors include freshman Matija Debevec, who can shoot well, and sophomore Marquin Chandler.

BACKCOURT: Maybe now Chris Monroe will get his due. While SirValiant Brown received scads of attention for shooting 75 times a game, Monroe scored, rebounded and defended against guards, forwards and anybody else who was around. He's clearly the team leader. Look for freshman T.J. Thompson to slide right in at starting point, ahead of shaky Darnell Miller. Thompson should make his teammates extremely happy by passing often. Sophomore Greg Collucci is a heady player with a great long-range shot who needs more than 168 pounds if he's going to be a full-time player. Latvian import Kristaps Janicenkoks can fill it up from long range, too.

STRATEGY: Hobbs and Penders seem to have the same up-tempo style. But there's one difference: Hobbs expects everything to start with pressure defense; Penders' clubs wanted to play pressure offense. GW has a few solid components, particularly in the backcourt, and it will ask a lot of Forchion and Scott up front. The Colonials have some athletes and should make things tough for a few teams, but their youth and lack of interior heft will cause trouble against more formidable foes.

Spiders Data

Coach: John Beilein (78-39, 4 years; 425-244 overall, 23 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Jeff Neubauer (5 years), Mike Jones (1), Matt Brown (4).

2000-2001 record: 22-7. Colonial: 12-4/1st. Lost to Dayton in the second

round of the NIT.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 80.

Last league title: 2001 (Colonial Athletic Association).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Richmond, Va.

Website: www.richmondspiders.com

Home court: Robins Center (9,171).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; highlighted names: projected starters							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Reggie Brown*	6-4/185	Jr.	10.1	1.6	2.6	36.9	72.8	27.9
22	F	Jermaine Bucknor	6-6/205	Fr.	Thrives on the perimeter.					
33	F/C	Johnathan Collins	6-9/195	So.	0.6	0.8	0.1	40.0	33.3	50.0
1	G	Tony Dobbins	6-4/190	So.	Transferred from Virginia Tech.					
21	C	Tim Faulconer*	6-11/225	Sr.	4.1	3.5	0.2	48.9	63.6	21.1
14	G	Justin Lay	6-4/195	Jr.	0.9	0.1	0.1	33.3	66.7	33.3
24	G	Jason Morton	6-1/180	Fr.	Quick true combo guard.					
4	G	Jeff Myers	6-1/190	Jr.	2.4	1.1	1.9	41.8	60.0	42.4
25	C	Patrick O'Malley	6-8/225	Fr.	Can shoot from outside and play inside.					
32	F	Mike Skrocki	6-6/190	So.	3.1	0.8	1.1	37.5	66.7	31.6
3	G/F	Scott Ungerer*	6-7/210	Sr.	6.4	3.5	4.4	41.3	62.1	37.2
55	C	Eric Zwyer	6-9/240	So.	7.7	4.0	0.7	54.2	73.8	50.0

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Greg Stevenson*	6-6/220	19.7	7.7	1.7	53.6	76.7	48.5
F	Kinte Smith*	6-5/185	9.5	4.9	2.9	44.0	65.0	34.7

Schedule

N16	Appalachian St.	D28-29 Spider Invit.	J26	Duquesne	F23	at G. Washington	
N24	at UAB	J2	at Wake Forest	J30	G. Washington	F27	Fordham
N28	at Radford	J5	La Salle	F2	Xavier	M2	at Duquesne
D1	VCU	J12	at Xavier	F6	at St. Bonaventure		
D5	Mississippi St.	J16	Massachusetts	F13	St. Joseph's		
D8	at Charlotte	J19	at Dayton	F16	at La Salle		

Colonials Data

Coach: Karl Hobbs (1st year).

Assistant coaches: Kevin Broadus (1st year), Darrell Brooks (1st year), Steve Pikiell (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 14-18. Atlantic 10: 6-10/7th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 56.

Last league title: 1999 (A-10 West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Washington, D.C.

Website: www.gwsports.com

Home court: Charles E. Smith Center (5,000).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; highlighted names: projected starters							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
30	F	Marquin Chandler	6-6/212	So.	2.0	1.2	0.1	35.7	33.3	25.0
34	G	Greg Collucci	6-3/168	So.	3.9	0.9	0.6	40.2	73.1	43.7
	C	Matija Debevec	6-11/230	Fr.	Has also shown a good shooting touch.					
44	F	Tamal Forchion	6-6/225	Fr.	Known for his toughness.					
	G	Kristaps Janicenkoks	6-5/220	Fr.	Has the ability to score from long range.					
14	G	Darnell Miller	6-4/200	So.	1.4	0.8	1.3	33.3	66.7	0.0
4	G	Chris Monroe*	6-3/222	Jr.	18.7	6.1	2.7	41.9	79.4	37.6
3	C	Albert Roma	7-0/252	Sr.	2.0	1.7	0.1	50.0	74.1	100.0
42	F	Darrio Scott	6-6/215	Fr.	His athletic ability will help this team.					
31	F	Jaason Smith	6-8/200	Sr.	5.7	3.1	0.2	48.8	69.4	08.7
5	G	T.J. Thompson	5-11/175	Fr.	Expected to be the starting point guard.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Bernard Barrow*	5-8/142	5.2	4.4	3.9	34.1	60.0	35.4
G	SirValiant Brown*	6-1/158	17.3	2.7	1.8	36.9	71.9	29.4
F	Attila Cosby*	6-8/215	8.4	7.2	0.7	50.0	58.6	26.7
G	Mike King*	6-4/180	11.7	4.7	2.0	48.1	68.4	27.4
F	Patrick Ngongba	6-8/238	4.4	4.4	0.4	41.6	66.7	42.1

Schedule

N15-16	NABC Classic*	D29	Charlotte	J23	at Massachusetts	F20	Dayton
N19	at Texas A&M	J3	St. Bonaventure	J26	Rhode Island	F23	Richmond
N23-24	Auerbach Tourn.	J6	Duquesne	J30	at Richmond	M2	at Fordham
N28	Boston University	J9	at Dayton	F2	at La Salle		*at Lexington, Ky.
D2-3	BB&T Classic**	J12	La Salle	F9	Temple		**at Washington, D.C.
D6	at Old Dominion	J16	Xavier	F12	at Xavier		

5. La Salle

National Rank: 124

FRONTCOURT: If you thought Rasual Butler took a lot of shots last year, then wait until this season. The Explorers have only one other player, point guard Julian Blanks, with any proven collegiate scoring ability, so it will be up to Butler to produce. And produce. Blessed with incredible shooting range and a smooth style that gets him to the basket with ease, Butler is a threat to score 30 every night. He's also liable to shoot about 17 percent from the field—and not get the message that he should slow down. A little better judgment could make Butler a lot of money after college. The rest of the frontcourt is shaky, unproven or both. Junior Reggie Okosa, a transfer from Virginia Commonwealth, will be good for some defense and rebounding. Joel-Jean Baptiste is 6-9, 270, but is slow and more raw than steak tartare.

BACKCOURT: Blanks played the point the last three years, but he could well slide to shooting guard to accommodate freshman Mike Cleaves, a quick distributor who can leap tall buildings in a single bound. That's a good combination. Sophomore Rasheed Quadri can also swing between the two guard spots. Freshman Jeff Farmer was a big scorer in high school who will be called upon for quick production off the bench.

STRATEGY: After 12 years as Gary Williams' trusted lieutenant at Maryland, Billy Hahn takes over for deposed Speedy Morris with quite a challenge. He must build a winner at a school that has some of the fewest resources among A-10 members and keep pace with neighbors Temple and St. Joseph's. Expect Hahn's teams to be aggressive and feisty, just like their coach. They'll also be exciting to watch, thanks to his affinity for pressure defense and plenty of points. Just don't expect miracles this year. La Salle is deficient up front and young at guard. Sure, Butler will score, but one man isn't enough in the A-10 anymore.

Explorers Data

Coach: Billy Hahn (1st year; 42-46 overall, 3 years).
Assistant coaches: John Gallagher (2 years), Matt Hahn (1st year), Roland Houston (2), Joseph Lombardi (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 12-17. Atlantic 10: 5-11/8th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 137.
Last league title: 1990 (MAAC South).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Philadelphia.
Website: www.lasalle.edu
Home court: Tom Gola Arena (4,000).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; highlighted names: projected starters							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
55	F	Joel-Jean Baptiste	6-9/270	So.	0.6	1.1	0.1	44.4	22.2	—
21	G	Julian Blanks*	6-2/195	Sr.	12.2	4.5	6.0	39.9	72.7	30.1
45	F	Rasual Butler*	6-7/205	Sr.	22.1	6.4	2.0	40.2	84.5	35.7
30	F	John Clark	6-5/210	Jr.	0.5	0.3	0.2	40.0	100.0	0.0
	G	Mike Cleaves	5-10/175	Fr.	Averaged 16 ppg, 6 apq as H.S. senior.					
	G	Jeff Farmer	6-5/195	Fr.	Averaged 24.5 ppg, 12 rpg as H.S. senior.					
11	G	Dwayne Jones	6-5/195	Jr.	1.1	0.5	0.1	34.6	33.3	30.8
	F	Dziflo Larkai	6-8/215	Fr.	Was also on H.S. football, rowing teams.					
24	G	Sean Mulholland	6-1/175	Fr.	Medical redshirt (knee) last season.					
	F	Reggie Okosa	6-9/225	Jr.	VCU transfer will bolster rebounding.					
5	G	Rasheed Quadri	6-3/180	So.	3.2	1.8	1.1	28.9	60.0	28.3
13	G	Jackiem Wright	6-0/170	So.	2.1	0.4	0.1	50.0	50.0	66.7

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Garrett Bragg*	6-11/275	6.2	5.3	0.8	41.7	71.1	—
F	James Jordan*	6-8/234	3.6	5.3	0.5	42.2	36.1	—
F	Victor Thomas*	6-7/200	19.7	6.8	1.9	44.2	74.6	32.9
F	Anwar Wilson	6-8/196	2.1	4.3	0.6	54.5	61.9	—

Schedule

D15	Seton Hall	J19	Xavier	F13	Temple
N18-20	Paradise Jam Tr.	D22	UAB	J23	Dayton
N24	at Delaware	D28	at Marist	J26	at Fordham
N27	at Villanova	J5	at Richmond	J28	Penn.
N30-D1	Iowa Tourn.	J9	St. Bonaventure	F2	G. Washington
D5	Rutgers	J12	at G. Washington	F6	at St. Joseph's
D8	at Drexel	J16	at Duquesne	F9	at Massachusetts

Dukes Data

Coach: Danny Nee (1st year; 368-278 overall, 21 years; 1-7 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Charles Cunningham (1st year), Randy Roth (1st year), John Mahoney (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 9-21. Atlantic 10:

3-13/10th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 203.
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1977.
Site: Pittsburgh.
Website: www.godukes.duq.edu
Home court: A.J. Palumbo Center (6,200).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; highlighted names: projected starters							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
32	G	Tyler Bluemling	6-2/175	Fr.	Solid player expected to add depth.					
42	F/C	Chris Clark	6-10/230	Jr.	1.4	1.1	0.2	47.2	44.4	—
20	G	Kevin Forney	6-4/190	Jr.	9.1	2.7	2.0	43.2	80.3	33.3
10	G	Brandon Gilmore	5-8/185	Jr.	0.9	0.0	0.0	60.0	—	50.0
12	G	Jamal Hunter	6-5/185	Sr.	5.9	1.3	0.7	49.1	72.4	28.6
40	F	Aaron Lovelace	6-5/210	Sr.	5.4	3.2	0.6	47.4	71.1	33.3
21	F	Brad Midgley	6-5/210	Jr.	4.6	2.5	0.6	44.8	68.0	27.5
14	C	Simplice Njoya	6-10/225	Fr.	Expected to get significant playing time.					
33	F	Jon Pawlak	6-9/200	So.	0.8	0.3	0.0	37.5	25.0	60.0
1	G	Aly Samabaly	6-3/195	Fr.	Won two state titles after entering U.S.					
5	F	Wayne Smith*	6-7/220	Sr.	15.2	5.7	1.8	42.0	80.3	36.2

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Jack May*	6-8/220	7.0	5.6	0.7	48.7	40.9	0.0
C	Simon Ogunlesi*	6-10/260	6.8	4.3	0.3	48.5	60.0	—
G	Charles Stanfield*	6-4/190	7.5	4.3	1.2	45.8	59.8	28.6
G	Shawn Tann	6-4/215	1.4	0.6	0.4	25.5	60.0	20.6
G	Courtney Wallace*	6-4/210	16.6	4.7	3.4	44.2	79.8	44.1

Schedule

D19	at West Virginia	J12	Dayton	F6	Massachusetts
N18	Md.-E. Shore	D22	at Pittsburgh	J16	La Salle
N26	Vermont	D27	at Cleveland St.	J19	at St. Bonaventure
N29	at Ohio	D29	Liberty	J23	St. Joseph's
D1	at Cincinnati	D31	George Mason	J26	at Richmond
D5	Bowling Green	J6	at G. Washington	J30	at Xavier
D8	at UNC Wilm.	J9	at Temple	F2	Fordham
				M2	Richmond

6. Duquesne

National Rank: 159

FRONTCOURT: Wayne Smith is back, and it will be interesting to see whether new Dukes coach Danny Nee can prod the 6-7 senior into playing more like he did as a freshman. Smith produced last year, but he lacked the fire and consistency needed to lead the Dukes. Smith is a strong perimeter player, but he must bang more this season because Duquesne has questions galore inside. Senior Aaron Lovelace is a solid defender, but he's only 6-5. Chris Clark, a junior, is ineligible the first term, and his play was mediocre last year. That leaves freshman Simplice Njoya. Njoya has potential, but he is still raw and, at 225 pounds, he is too thin for full-time heavy lifting.

BACKCOURT: The Dukes are in better shape here, but there is no real point guard. Nee may hand the ball to senior Jamal Hunter, provided he can convince his new coach that he can take better care of the ball. Maybe freshman Aly Samabaly can fashion a game as melodic and smooth as his moniker. Maybe not. He has played just two years of organized ball and lacks hoop intuition. It may fall to junior Kevin Forney, whose commitment and strength have improved during the offseason. He has the potential to be part of a productive combination, with Hunter and Samabaly on the wings. Expect freshman Tyler Bluemling to impress Nee with his heady play.

STRATEGY: Nee is a former Marine, and though his players won't be marching off to battle, they will expend considerable effort on defense and play a patterned offensive game that requires discipline. We're not talking 1940s here, but the Dukes aren't going to be a freewheeling team, either. Nee knows how to use his 3-point shooters; witness Eric Piatkowski's success when Nee was at Nebraska. But Duquesne needs somebody to emerge at the point, or no offensive system will help.

MOUNTAIN WEST

BY STEVE CARP

After getting just one team in the NCAA Tournament, the Mountain West is looking to bounce back with more talent, more depth and more success come Selection Sunday. Utah should battle talent-rich Wyoming for the league title, while New Mexico will be better thanks to 7-foot center Moustapha Diagne and the 1-2-3 punch of Marlon Parmer, Ruben Douglas and Washington transfer Senque Carey.

But the key for improvement is having the bottom-feeder teams get better. San Diego State, the league's most improved team a year ago, should continue making strides after another successful recruiting year by Steve Fisher. Air Force might not escape the cellar just yet, but the Falcons were competitive throughout most of the conference season, and they should be better in Joe Scott's second year.

Steve Carp, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Predictions

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Wyoming* | 6. Brigham Young |
| 2. Utah* | 7. Colorado State |
| 3. New Mexico | 8. Air Force |
| 4. San Diego State | |
| 5. UNLV | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Marcus Bailey, Wyoming	6-5	190	Jr.
G	Ruben Douglas, New Mexico	6-4	185	Jr.
F	Josh Davis, Wyoming	6-8	235	Sr.
F	Dalron Johnson, UNLV	6-9	205	Jr.
F	Randy Holcomb, San Diego State	6-9	219	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Travis Spivey, Utah	6-1	205	Sr.
G	Marlon Parmer, New Mexico	6-2	180	Jr.
F	Tom Bellairs, Air Force	6-7	240	Jr.
F	Britton Johnsen, Utah	6-9	205	Jr.
C	Uche Nsonwu-Amadi, Wyoming	6-10	260	Jr.

Player of the Year

Josh Davis, Wyoming

Newcomer of the Year

Tony Bland, G, San Diego State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Marcus Bailey, Wyoming
Best rebounder: Tom Bellairs, Air Force
Best playmaker: Chris McMillian, Wyoming
Best defenders: Phil Cullen, Utah, and Eric Nielsen, BYU
Best dunker: Chris Richardson, UNLV
Best under 6-0: Deandre Moore, San Diego State
Best 7-0 or taller: Moustapha Diagne, New Mexico
Most versatile: Dalron Johnson, UNLV
Most flamboyant: Marlon Parmer, New Mexico
Best NBA prospects: Josh Davis, Wyoming, and Randy Holcomb, San Diego State

UNLV and Brigham Young are capable of playing with anyone on a given night, and both teams should give good accounts of themselves. Keeping Dalron Johnson in Vegas was big for Charlie Spoonhour, and getting Mark Bigelow, the WAC's Freshman of the Year in 1999, back in a BYU uniform was just as big for Steve Cleveland.

The Aztecs are the team to keep an eye on in terms of a potential spoiler. If Tony Bland and Brandon Smith can shake off the rust after a year's inactivity following their transfers from Syracuse and Michigan, respectively, and if Mike Mackell lives up to his billing as the best junior college center in California, San Diego State will be a factor and maybe, just maybe, good enough to go the NCAAs for the first time since 1985.

ASCENDING: San Diego State. Experienced transfers waiting in the wings, another solid year of recruiting and improved depth make the Aztecs a team worth watching. Randy Holcomb will get some legitimate help from Bland, Smith and Mackell. Also, Fisher continues to recruit effectively from the high school ranks, getting two of California's best prospects—Trimaime Davis and Tommie Johnson.

DESCENDING: Colorado State. Losing five seniors and seven lettermen overall from a team that went just 15-13 and won only one league road game means one thing: rebuilding. The Rams will miss the outside shooting of John Sivesind, the scoring of Ron Grady and the leadership of Aki Palmer, not to mention the toughness that David Fisher and Garrett Patik provided inside. Coach Dale Layer better hope Brian Greene and Andy Birley can pick up the slack.



Johnson should see the ball more now that he's moving to the wing.

PATRICK MURPHY-RACEY FOR TSN

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Terrell Lyday, BYU. With his loss, someone at Brigham Young better be able to score. The Cougars will miss Lyday's explosiveness and his ability to come through in the clutch, not to mention his 16.4 scoring average. Perhaps Bigelow will be that guy after missing the past two years because of a church mission. He averaged 15 points as a freshman and has been working hard all summer on his game. He attended a private college players' camp in Las Vegas in July to get a jump on the competition and get back into form.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Marcus Bailey, Wyoming. He does so many things well, people forget he can take over a game just as easily as teammate Josh Davis can. Bailey, a 17.4 points per game scorer, actually averaged almost 4 more points than Davis while playing two positions—small forward and shooting guard. Bailey also is an underrated passer, and he screens and rebounds well for a player his size.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER:

Ugo Udezue, Wyoming. He was supposed to be a big star after his sophomore year. But he hurt his knee, had surgery and, despite reportedly being fully recovered last season, has shown only glimpses of his former self. His cousin, Uche Nsonwu-Amadi, is a much better player right now. Udezue must get back to his old form every night if the Cowboys expect to have an impact nationally.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT:

Fran Fraschilla, New Mexico. He got a pass the first couple of seasons, going to the NIT while trying to rebuild. But now that the components appear to be in place, New Mexico fans will expect a lot more from Fraschilla and the Lobos. He says he's a year away from delivering, but the denizens at The Pit may not be willing to wait.

BEST BETS:

Look for new UNLV coach Spoonhour to be a media favorite around the league. He already has made fast friends with the ultra-cynical Vegas press. ... The return of coach Rick Majerus to the sideline will help Utah challenge for the championship and help point guard Travis Spivey's game. ... Look for New Mexico, which averaged just under 70 points a game last year, to be the most improved offensive team in the league thanks to the arrival of Diagne and Carey, the play of Marlon Parmer and the depth on the wing, where Eric Chatfield and Tim Lightfoot can come off the bench and put up points in a hurry. ... He still may be the Mountain West's most excitable coach on the sideline, but look for Air Force's Joe Scott to chill out in Year 2. He didn't make many friends among the officials with his constant carping and complaining. Perhaps that chat he had with athletic director Randy Spetman late last season and the fact he became a first-time father over the summer will result in a calmer demeanor and more calls for the Falcons. ... The 2004 MWC Tournament is up for grabs after the league backed off going to Denver. San Diego State, fresh off its successful stint hosting first- and second-round games in last year's NCAA Tournament, will put on a full-court press to get the conference tourney to Cox Arena. The school's support for hoops is growing—it sold a record 2,400 season tickets as of mid-July.

TSN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

- 1. San Diego State:** Mike Mackell, Trimaime Davis and, if eligible, Tommie Johnson all will help.
- 2. New Mexico:** Seven-foot Moustapha Diagne will fit in nicely with Douglas, Parmer & Co.
- 3. Utah:** Utes got lucky, signing PG Martin Osimani, especially after Kevin Bradley flunked out.
- 4. UNLV:** PG Marcus Banks was among JC elite. An eligible Ernest Turner would boost backcourt.
- 5. Wyoming:** With star SG Donta Richardson on board, the package is now complete.
- 6. Colorado State:** Freddy Robinson and Matt Williams must help make up for loss of five seniors.
- 7. Brigham Young:** Lots of new faces, so it's unclear how much time youngsters will get.
- 8. Air Force:** At 6-10 and 6-9, respectively, Jake Merrell and Jarrett Hess are welcome additions.

RETURNING LEADERS

Name	School	PPG
Marcus Bailey	Wyoming	17.4
Ruben Douglas	New Mexico	16.3
Randy Holcomb	San Diego State	15.9
Josh Davis	Wyoming	13.5
Eric Chatfield	New Mexico	12.9
Name	School	RPG
Josh Davis	Wyoming	9.4
Uche Nsonwu-Amadi	Wyoming	8.3
Dalron Johnson	UNLV	7.6
Tom Bellairs	Air Force	7.3
Randy Holcomb	San Diego State	6.6

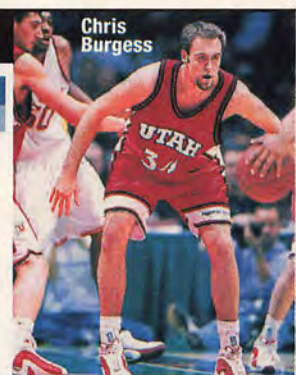
Name	School	APG
Marlon Parmer	New Mexico	5.4
Deandre Moore	San Diego State	5.0
Chris McMillian	Wyoming	4.2
Vernard Jenkins	Air Force	3.8
Travis Spivey	Utah	3.7
Name	School	FG%
Uche Nsonwu-Amadi	Wyoming	60.2
Myron Epps	San Diego State	54.9
Chris Burgess	Utah	54.3
Brian Greene	Colorado State	50.9
Josh Davis	Wyoming	48.5

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Brigham Young*	10	4	24	9	15	0	9	9
Wyoming+	10	4	20	10	12	2	8	8
Utah+	10	4	19	12	13	3	6	9
UNLV	7	7	16	13	12	3	4	10
New Mexico+	6	8	21	13	15	4	6	9
Colorado State	6	8	15	13	10	3	5	10
San Diego State	4	10	14	14	12	5	2	9
Air Force	3	11	8	21	5	9	3	12

*Received NCAA bid.

+Received NIT bid.



JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

TEAM STATS

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Wyoming	30	44.7	70.3	28.5	40.9	16.9	6.4	4.8	14.6	76.1
UNLV	29	44.2	68.1	33.5	38.0	15.8	7.4	5.5	15.3	75.8
Utah	31	47.0	68.9	37.7	36.8	13.9	6.1	3.4	14.5	71.8
Brigham Young	33	45.9	78.0	38.1	31.9	12.6	6.2	3.2	13.8	70.4
New Mexico	34	44.1	63.6	34.3	34.6	12.4	6.7	4.0	11.7	69.4
Colorado State	28	47.9	66.7	40.4	34.7	15.4	5.8	1.5	15.1	69.0
San Diego State	28	44.5	65.9	35.1	34.8	15.1	6.5	3.2	15.2	68.8
Air Force	29	43.5	69.7	35.9	23.0	12.7	7.3	1.9	13.3	57.5

Opponents' stats

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Brigham Young	33	41.4	70.3	32.3	31.6	10.6	5.8	3.0	15.0	62.7
Air Force	29	47.6	73.3	35.4	30.3	12.3	6.1	2.1	13.6	63.0
Utah	31	40.6	68.3	35.4	30.5	10.5	6.1	2.7	13.5	63.1
Colorado State	28	41.2	68.3	31.1	30.3	11.8	7.3	3.4	13.4	63.4
New Mexico	34	43.3	65.2	32.0	35.5	11.9	5.4	2.9	14.7	66.6
San Diego State	28	42.1	65.8	31.9	36.2	14.5	7.1	3.2	15.0	67.5
Wyoming	30	40.6	67.7	32.6	36.1	13.3	6.8	4.0	13.7	70.6
UNLV	29	43.9	67.8	35.0	38.9	15.4	5.9	2.6	15.4	74.8

1. Wyoming

National Rank: 34

FRONT COURT: Josh Davis can play all three front-line positions, but he'll settle in at power forward. He has a great sense of timing; is always around the ball; gets plenty of rebounds, dunks and putbacks; and plays good defense. Marcus Bailey, another versatile player, can play small forward and shooting guard. Last year, he played in the backcourt. This season, he may return to the wing if junior college transfer Donta Richardson is as good as advertised. Bailey's the best pure shooter on the team and, possibly, in the league. He can hit the mid-range jumper, a rarity these days, as well as the 3. He also can defend forwards better than he can check guards. Uche Nsonwu-Amadi can bang inside without getting into foul trouble. He fouled out only once last season and never backed down from a challenge. He's excellent inside offensively but doesn't try to exceed his limitations. The problem for coach Steve McClain will be finding minutes for Ronell Mingo, Ugo Udezue and Joe Ries, a sophomore who is athletic and runs well.

BACK COURT: Point guard Chris McMillian broke his leg in late July and was expected to be out three months. His numbers were down slightly last year, but he remains one of the top play-makers in the league and doesn't really need to score on this team. Freshman Jason Straight will be his understudy. Richardson averaged 22 points a game in junior college. If he can come close to that, it would allow Bailey to go back to small forward, where he's best suited to play, and would open things up in the paint.

STRATEGY: The Cowboys will look to run and apply pressure, especially at home. They love to dunk and get their fans into the game quickly. If Richardson makes 3s and Davis, Nsonwu-Amadi and Co. control the boards as they should, the Cowboys will score some points. They averaged 76.1 a game last year and have the talent to do better than that and get to the NCAA Tournament.

Cowboys Data

Coach: Steve McClain (57-32, 3 years).
Assistant coaches: John Adams (3 years), LeRoy Washington (1), Heath Schroyer (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 20-10. MWC: 10-4/T1st. Lost to Pepperdine in NIT first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 55.
Last league title: 2001 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Laramie, Wyo.
Website: www.wyomingathletics.com
Home court: Arena Auditorium (15,028).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
44	G/F	Marcus Bailey*	6-5/190	Jr.	17.4	4.1	3.2	47.0	85.3	32.6
24	G	Paris Corner	6-1/193	Sr.	4.1	1.3	0.9	33.9	64.9	27.0
22	F	Josh Davis*	6-8/235	Sr.	13.5	9.4	1.8	48.5	73.3	20.3
33	G	Brandon Dickerson	6-4/200	Jr.	Made 40 percent of his 3s for 23-7 JC team. Redshirted last year; should aid growth.					
13	F/C	Alex Dunn	6-10/220	Fr.						
10	G	Chris McMillian*	5-10/180	Sr.	6.9	2.6	4.2	37.2	65.4	35.1
00	F/C	Ronell Mingo*	6-9/230	Sr.	6.6	4.1	0.6	48.7	70.1	0.0
5	F/C	U. Nsonwu-Amadi*	6-10/260	Jr.	11.8	8.3	0.7	60.2	58.0	0.0
1	G	Donta Richardson	6-2/170	Jr.	Versatile JC All-American led 30-2 team.					
25	G/F	Joe Ries	6-8/225	So.	1.6	1.0	0.2	48.0	56.5	33.3
20	G/F	David Rottinghaus	6-5/195	So.	3.1	1.8	1.2	39.7	62.5	31.6
3	G	Jason Straight	5-11/165	Fr.	A true point guard and top national recruit.					
4	F/C	Ugo Udezue	6-8/245	Sr.	3.8	3.0	0.7	39.5	55.4	33.3

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Brett McFall	6-0/180	7.7	2.4	3.4	35.8	80.8	29.0

Schedule

N13 at USC*	D12 at Boise State	J21 at San Diego St.	F23 at Air Force
N19 Ark.-Pine Bluff	D15 Montana State**	J26 New Mexico	F25 at New Mexico
N24 Eastern Kentucky	D19 Indiana State	J28 Air Force	F28 BYU
N26 at Denver	D22 Alaska-Anch.	F2 at BYU	M2 Utah
N28 at Detroit Mercy	D29 Portland State	F4 at Utah	*Preseason NIT
D1 Cal St. Fullerton	J1 at Texas Tech	F9 at Colorado State	**at Casper, Wyo.
D6 Cal St. Northridge	J5 at UNLV	F16 UNLV	
	J12 Colorado State	F18 San Diego State	

2. Utah

National Rank: 42

FRONT COURT: Britton Johnsen, the heir apparent to Keith Van Horn, took awhile to get into a groove after a two-year church mission, but once he got going, he was one of the better players in the Mountain West. Johnsen should key a large front line that will include senior center Chris Burgess, who ran hot and cold last year, and solid Phil Cullen, who spent the summer pitching in the Seattle Mariners organization. The return of coach Rick Majerus should bring out the best in the Utes, who will also have 7-foot Cameron Koford and 6-10 Lance Allred ready to come off the bench, along with 6-11 freshman Chris Jackson. The Utes are deep, the only team that can match up with Wyoming's front line. That gives them a chance to win the league.

BACK COURT: It appears Kevin Bradley, who has the ability to score, defend and run a team, was unable to get it together academically. Bradley's absence means the burden of running the offense falls on the slender shoulders of talented but inconsistent senior Travis Spivey. That may not be all bad. Spivey has a year in the system, and he'll have Majerus working with him daily. The Utes may also look to freshman Martin Osimani to play some point and provide scoring, while sophomore swingman Nick Jacobson and senior Jeff Johnsen will play the majority of the minutes at shooting guard. Jacobson is likely to improve on his 7.9-point freshman average.

STRATEGY: Dick Hunsaker did an excellent job filling in and was named the Mountain West's Coach of the Year. But Majerus' ability to teach the game and motivate is vital. If Spivey improves, if Jacobson increases his scoring average and if Burgess finally becomes a consistent scorer and rebounder, the Utes may find themselves back in the NCAA Tournament after missing the show last year. One thing's for sure: They won't be lacking motivation.

Utes Data

Coach: Rick Majerus (262-73, 12 years; 361-125 overall, 17 years; 17-9 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Dick Hunsaker (4 years), Jeff Strohm (5).
2000-2001 record: 19-12. MWC: 10-4/T1st. Lost to Memphis in

NIT first round.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 14.
Last league title: 2001 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 2000.
Site: Salt Lake City.
Website: www.utahutes.com
Home court: Jon M. Huntsman Center (15,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
41	F/C	Lance Allred	6-10/240	So.	2.2	1.8	0.1	60.9	50.0	—
34	F/C	Chris Burgess*	6-10/245	Sr.	7.7	6.1	0.9	54.3	43.3	25.0
21	G/F	Trace Caton	6-4/215	Jr.	2.3	0.6	0.5	51.0	60.0	46.2
40	F/C	Phil Cullen*	6-9/215	Sr.	9.3	4.2	0.9	43.2	66.7	39.7
	F/C	Cameron Goettsche	6-8/215	Fr.	All-state selection in Colorado. Finalist for McDonald's team.					
	C	Chris Jackson	6-11/240	Fr.						
15	G/F	Nick Jacobson*	6-4/200	So.	7.9	1.4	1.1	45.5	79.7	38.9
31	F	Britton Johnsen*	6-9/205	Jr.	9.3	5.3	1.5	46.7	62.4	44.4
35	G/F	Jeff Johnsen	6-4/200	Sr.	8.6	3.4	2.3	49.4	75.0	40.0
13	C	Cameron Koford	7-0/215	Jr.	2.2	1.6	0.4	52.9	44.4	—
	G	Martin Osimani	6-3/200	Fr.	Averaged 10.8 apg as a senior.					
	G	Eric Osmundson	6-4/190	Fr.	Averaged 23.1 ppg, 6 rpg, 8 apg as senior.					
11	G	Travis Spivey*	6-1/205	Sr.	5.3	2.8	3.7	41.8	74.6	25.8

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Nate Althoff	6-11/265	8.0	3.1	0.2	61.4	74.3	0.0
G	Kevin Bradley	6-0/170	10.5	3.2	2.3	41.5	72.2	38.0
F	Mike Puzey	6-8/230	Transferred to Utah State.					

Schedule

N16 St. Francis (Ill.)	D8 Troy State	J12 UNLV	F9 at San Diego St.
N20 Boise State	D15 at Weber State	J14 San Diego State	F11 at UNLV
N23 Utah State	D18 Southern Utah	J19 at Air Force	F16 Air Force
N26 at Alabama	D21 Idaho State	J21 at New Mexico	F18 New Mexico
D1 Pepperdine	D29 Texas	J28 Brigham Young	F23 at Brigham Young
D4 Arizona State*	J2 Whitworth	F2 Colorado State	F28 at Colorado State
	J7 at St. Mary's	F4 Wyoming	M2 at Wyoming
			*at Phoenix

3. New Mexico

National Rank: 57

FRONTCOURT: Finally, there's a big man in the middle for coach Fran Fraschilla: 7-foot center Moustapha Diagne from Senegal, a junior college transfer. Now the Lobos can attack inside and have a defensive presence. They also have 6-11 freshman Chad Bell, and Fraschilla's not afraid to use young guys, as Patrick Dennehy and Alvin Broussard found out a year ago when they logged solid minutes as freshmen. The roles of Dennehy and Broussard will expand, and perhaps there will be minutes for another freshman, 6-6 small forward Jamaal Williams, the co-player of the year in Southern California last year. Yes, Wayland White's athleticism and toughness will be missed, but these guys more than make up for it by giving the Lobos a different dimension, plus some needed depth.

BACKCOURT: You'll be hard pressed to come up with a better trio than Ruben Douglas, Marlon Parmer and Senque Carey. Fraschilla plans to maximize their court time, playing them together. Carey, a former point guard at Washington, will play the role of a point forward. Douglas is a threat to score from anywhere, and Parmer may have been the most improved player in the league last season. If he can continue to mature, he'll be among the conference's elite. Eric Chatfield and Tim Lightfoot, meanwhile, are proven perimeter scorers who can light it up in a hurry and will get plenty of opportunities.

STRATEGY: Fraschilla's teams tried to play fast his first two years. Now, the Lobos are likely to get the ball inside to Diagne and play inside-out. There aren't many big centers in the league, so that may work. Still, the Lobos will look to score in transition with their 1-2-3 punch of Parmer, Douglas and Carey. With a couple of quality nonleague wins and a strong run in the conference regular season, the Lobos have a chance to get into the NCAAs.

Lobos Data

Coach: Fran Fraschilla (39-27, 2 years; 159-86 overall record, 8 years).

Assistant coaches: Joe Dooley (2 years), Travis Lyons (1), Darren Savino (2).

2000-2001 record: 21-13; Mountain West: 6-8/T5th. Lost to Memphis in

NIT quarterfinals.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 83.

Last league title: 1994 (WAC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Albuquerque, N.M.

Website: www.golobos.com

Home court: University Arena/The Pit (18,018).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Ryan Ashcraft	6-2/175	So.	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
	G	Chad Bell	6-11/230	Fr.	Agile post player could get important minutes.					
32	F	Alvin Broussard	6-6/215	So.	1.6	1.9	0.5	40.0	43.8	0.0
3	G	Senque Carey	6-4/210	Jr.	Transferred from Washington.					
42	G	Eric Chatfield*	6-3/215	Sr.	12.9	3.9	2.8	38.5	62.6	30.4
33	F	Patrick Dennehy	6-9/220	So.	2.5	4.2	0.4	43.4	40.7	0.0
	C/F	Moustapha Diagne	7-0/235	Jr.	Big and athletic but still learning the game.					
5	G	Ruben Douglas*	6-4/185	Jr.	16.3	5.8	1.7	43.4	79.2	40.6
20	G	Michael Jordan	6-2/185	So.	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.0	100.0	0.0
30	F	Pat Kelly	6-6/180	Sr.	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.0	50.0	—
10	G	Tim Lightfoot	6-3/195	Sr.	7.6	1.5	0.5	44.8	76.3	40.3
2	G	Marlon Parmer*	6-2/180	Jr.	11.6	4.0	5.4	45.1	67.1	29.6
	F	Cody Payne	6-7/235	Jr.	Strong, physical and can shoot some.					
	G	Mark Walters	6-2/195	Fr.	Gifted but, with talent glut, a likely redshirt.					
	F	Jamaal Williams	6-6/230	Fr.	Outstanding HS career as power forward.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Brian Smith*	6-8/245	6.1	3.3	0.3	51.3	82.5	45.5
F	Wayland White*	6-6/225	9.4	6.0	1.2	52.3	37.9	50.0

Schedule

N17	Stanford	D16	New Mexico St.	J21	Utah	F18	at Utah
N19	Texas Southern	D22	UNC-Greensboro	J26	at Wyoming	F23	Colorado State
N23-24	Hispanic Coll. Tr.	D28-29	Lobo Invit.	J28	at Colorado State	F25	Wyoming
N28	at California	J5	Northern Arizona	F2	San Diego State	F28	at San Diego St.
D1	Alcorn State	J7	Gonzaga	F5	UNLV	M2	at UNLV
D5	at N. Mexico St.	J14	Air Force	F9	at Air Force		

Aztecs Data

Coach: Steve Fisher (19-37, 2 years; 203-119 overall; 10 years; 20-6 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title with Michigan in 1989).

Assistant coaches: Brian Dutcher (2 years), Marvin Menzies (2), Jim Tomey (2).

2000-2001 record: 14-14. MWC:

4-10/7th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 186.

Last league title: 1978 (tie, Pacific Coast Athletic Association).

Last NCAA appearance: 1985.

Site: San Diego.

Website: www.goaztecs.com

Home court: Cox Arena at Aztec Bowl (12,414).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
11	G	David Abramowitz	6-0/170	Sr.	5.0	1.3	1.9	36.6	84.4	36.6
4	G	Tony Bland	6-4/192	Jr.	Scored 6.7 per as a starter at Syracuse.					
	F	Trimaime Davis	6-8/215	Fr.	Averaged 14.7 boards, for 24-2 H.S. team.					
33	F	Myron Epps*	6-6/210	Sr.	11.1	4.5	1.0	54.9	63.6	0.0
5	G	Al Faux*	6-2/186	Sr.	10.5	3.5	2.6	42.3	64.9	42.1
23	F	Randy Holcomb*	6-9/219	Sr.	15.9	6.6	1.4	42.2	68.3	29.2
	G	Tommie Johnson	6-4/190	Fr.	L.A. star is part of a deep backcourt.					
10	G	Karlo Kovacic	6-5/204	Sr.	5.3	1.8	0.7	36.3	41.4	36.5
	C	Mike Mackell	6-9/230	Jr.	Led JC to California title with 22.4 ppg.					
1	G	Deandre Moore*	5-9/179	Jr.	6.8	3.4	5.0	37.7	64.3	27.4
0	G	Jim Roban	6-6/210	Sr.	4.6	1.3	0.3	45.0	66.7	52.0
34	F	Aerick Sanders	6-8/192	So.	3.8	3.8	0.3	54.3	43.5	—
2	F	Brandon Smith	6-7/198	Sr.	A Michigan transfer for Steve Fisher.					
3	F	Chris Walton	6-8/218	Sr.	3.3	2.5	1.3	47.2	69.7	11.1
20	F	Curtis Washington	6-5/180	So.	Mackell's JC teammate won tourney MVP.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
C	Marcelo Correa*	6-10/230	6.4	4.0	1.0	59.6	75.7	—

Schedule

N16-17	Red Raider Cl.	D8	Fresno State	J12	at BYU	F11	Brigham Young
N21	Norfolk State	D15	at Hawaii	J14	at Utah	F16	at Colorado State
N24	at N. Mexico St.	D17	Houston	J19	Colorado State	F18	at Wyoming
N27	UC San Diego	D23	E. Washington	J21	Wyoming	F23	at UNLV
D1	Cal St.-N'thrldge	D29	at Duke	J26	UNLV	F28	New Mexico
D5	at San Diego	D31	Columbia	F2	at New Mexico	M2	Air Force
		J2	IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	F4	at Air Force		
		J8	at Tex. A&M-C.C.	F9	Utah		

4. San Diego State

National Rank: 80

FRONTCOURT: Randy Holcomb proved he was a legitimate power forward and team leader, fueling the Aztecs' turnaround from 5-23 two years ago to 14-14 last year. Now he has help: Mike Mackell, the top junior college center in California a year ago, and redshirt small forward Brandon Smith, both of them athletic, tough and experienced. Smith played at Michigan before transferring to San Diego State, and Mackell spent two years at Porterville J.C. Myron Epps will come off the bench at small forward, and freshman Trimaime Davis will get a few minutes and gain valuable experience. Finally, the Aztecs have some depth.

BACKCOURT: Tony Bland has been the best player in the program since transferring from Syracuse a year ago. Now, he'll get the chance to show it in games at the shooting guard spot. Point guard Deandre Moore played with a separated shoulder last year and may not be 100 percent by the start of the season. If he isn't, Bland may move to the point and Al Faux, a walk-on who had a big impact last year, would start at off-guard. Karlo Kovacic, a scorer with downtown range, will come off the bench. Altogether, the backcourt, like the frontcourt, is the deepest and most talented it has been in years, thanks also to the arrival of freshman Tommie Johnson, the Los Angeles City Player of the Year.

STRATEGY: So many weapons, so few basketballs. That's a nice problem for coach Steve Fisher to have. Can he develop some chemistry and get these talented, athletic players to mesh? That will determine how much more the program improves. If the Aztecs, who lost only one starter from last season, get it together, they could make the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1985. More likely, they'll get an NIT berth, but given how bad things were with the program two years ago, that would be quite an accomplishment.

5. UNLV

National Rank: 89

FRONTCOURT: Dalron Johnson is the real deal. The plan is to move him from power forward to the wing, where he'll get more touches. He'll be more involved in the offense under new coach Charlie Spoonhour than he was under Bill Bayno. Elsewhere, there are question marks. With Kaspars Kambala and his muscle gone, Jamal Holden will get the chance to start at center. He's quicker than Kambala but not as strong. Chris Richardson is athletic, but his career has been spotty, and he has never played major minutes at this level. How will he respond to increased playing time? Omari Pearson showed some ability as a freshman, but he has a lot to learn. Spoonhour might give him minutes at center.

BACKCOURT: More question marks. Will freshman shooting guard Ernest Turner be eligible, and will he help with the perimeter shooting? Can Jermaine Lewis bounce back from major reconstructive surgery on his right knee and regain the effectiveness he showed in the first half of last season? Can Lou Kelly regain his junior college form after struggling with the lingering effects of a broken foot? There's no question, though, about Marcus Banks' ability. A JC All-American, Banks can run the ballclub, play good defense and score on his own. Lafonte Johnson came on toward the end of last season and should get better as a sophomore. He has the talent to be a good point guard.

STRATEGY: The Rebels are as mysterious as Howard Hughes. Spoonhour, who is 62 and was coaxed out of retirement in March, said the plan is to play hard and have fun. That sounds good on the surface, but does he have the pieces in place to pull it off? That question won't be fully answered until next March, but if Johnson and Banks can lead the way and a couple of other players step up, the Rebels could be battling for a postseason bid, especially with the league tourney on their home court.

Runnin' Rebels Data

Coach: Charlie Spoonhour (1st year; 319-171 overall, 16 years; 3-8 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: Deane Martin (1st year), Jay Spoonhour (1st year), Derek Thomas (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 16-13. MWC:

7-7/4th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 36.

Last league title: 2000 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Las Vegas.

Website: www.unlvrebels.com

Home court: Thomas & Mack Center (18,500).

Roster

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
22	F	Louis Amundson	6-7/205	Fr.	Named second-team all-Colorado.					
11	G	Jevon Banks	6-0/160	Sr.	1.6	0.6	1.8	30.4	53.8	0.0
3	G	Marcus Banks	6-1/195	Jr.	JC transfer is a leader.					
13	G	Lamar Bigby	6-4/185	Jr.	Will year off hamper range and defense?					
31	F	Noel Bloom	6-7/225	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—
24	G	Vince Booker*	6-1/175	Sr.	3.8	1.6	2.4	42.2	69.2	36.6
33	F/C	Jamal Holden	6-9/220	Jr.	Averaged 6 rpg for 23-6 JC team.					
10	F	Dalron Johnson*	6-9/205	Jr.	12.3	7.6	2.0	46.4	75.0	29.2
12	G	Lafonte Johnson	5-10/160	So.	4.4	1.5	2.2	36.5	71.9	36.1
15	G/F	Lou Kelly	6-5/210	Sr.	6.2	2.2	1.1	38.0	88.2	29.2
5	G	Jermaine Lewis	6-4/190	Sr.	9.3	3.2	1.4	41.0	49.2	35.3
14	F	Omari Pearson	6-8/220	So.	1.5	1.0	0.2	50.0	50.0	50.0
20	F	Chris Richardson	6-6/185	Sr.	4.7	3.5	0.5	53.6	57.4	30.0
1	G	Ernest Turner	6-2/200	Fr.	All-New Jersey pick scored 28 a game.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Danny Brotherson*	6-4/200	5.2	3.2	2.0	40.0	70.0	23.3
G	Trevor Diggs*	6-3/185	14.1	1.8	3.2	40.3	75.7	34.7
F/C	Kaspars Kambala*	6-9/250	16.9	9.1	1.0	54.2	72.9	—

Schedule

D15	at Loyola Mary.	J15	at BYU	F11	Utah
N17	Wisconsin	D20	Nevada	J21	Colorado State
N20	Nicholls State	D22	Texas	J26	at San Diego St.
N24	at Cincinnati	D28	Tennessee State	J31	at Air Force
N28	at Washington	D30	Old Dominion	F3	DePaul
D1	at Geo. Southern	J5	Wyoming	F5	at New Mexico
D8	at UAB	J12	at Utah	F9	Brigham Young
				M2	New Mexico

6. Brigham Young

National Rank: 112

FRONTCOURT: The Cougars will have trouble replacing leading scorer Mekeli Wesley, who had an ability to throw opponents off their game. With Wesley's 17.2 points a game gone, coach Steve Cleveland will have to hope that more touches for Eric Nielsen, Bart Jepsen, Jesse Pinegar and Travis Hansen will result in more points. Nielsen averaged 6.2 a game and easily could double that. The ability is there. Hansen shot 40.8 percent from the floor but took just 120 shots. Former Utah big man Jon Carlisle could provide help, especially on the boards. Wesley was also BYU's best rebounder, so someone needs to pick up the slack in that area, too. Dawes, who has size, will be in the rotation if he doesn't start.

BACKCOURT: Wesley isn't the only important component missing this year. Terrell Lyday, who was a great two-way player and averaged 16.4 points, is gone. So has Trent Whiting (14.2). The hope is Mark Bigelow, who averaged 15 points two years ago and was the 1999 WAC Pacific Division Freshman of the Year, didn't lose too much of his form while serving his church mission. Daniel Bobik, one of the first recruits to sign with BYU under Cleveland, will compete for the starting role. The Cougars also are banking on Michael Vranes, who was sidelined all of last season with a foot injury, to be 100 percent so he can help with perimeter scoring. Matt Montague's experience should help at point guard. Freshman Shawn Opunui also might be able to contribute there. But it's going to be tough to replace Lyday and Whiting.

STRATEGY: Last year, BYU played fast, and it helped get the Cougars back into the NCAA Tournament. They're not as quick this time around and must restructure their offense. Expect Cleveland and his staff to tinker with the lineup until they find the right combination. Some nights, the Cougars may look great. On others, they will struggle.

Cougars Data

Coach: Steve Cleveland (67-57, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Assistant coaches: David Rose (4 years), Andy Toolson (1st year), John Wardenberg (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 24-9. MWC:

10-4/T1st. Lost to Cincinnati in NCAA

West first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 63.

Last league title: 2001 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Provo, Utah

Website: www.byucougars.com

Home court: Marriott Center (22,700).

Roster

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
		G Jimmy Balderson	6-5/200	Fr.	Walk-on was Canadian high school star.					
3	G/F	Mark Bigelow	6-6/190	So.	Had stellar freshman year before mission.					
20	G	Daniel Bobik	6-6/195	So.	3.5	1.4	0.9	38.8	74.5	26.7
	F/C	Jon Carlisle	6-9/260	Jr.	Utah transfer must get weight back down.					
43	C	Derek Dawes	6-11/255	So.	1.1	2.0	0.1	36.4	66.7	—
2	F	Travis Hansen	6-6/210	Jr.	5.5	3.0	1.1	40.8	29.4	71.8
40	C	Dan Howard	7-0/225	So.	Low weight, minutes and impact thus far.					
	F	Jared Jensen	6-9/240	Fr.	Big high school scorer could fill size gap.					
32	F	Bart Jepsen	6-9/235	So.	Rebounding, defense should get him time.					
31	G	Matt Montague	6-0/190	Sr.	2.2	1.8	2.9	40.8	74.2	44.4
25	F	Eric Nielsen*	6-9/215	Sr.	6.2	3.8	0.6	60.6	77.3	33.3
	G	Shawn Opunui	5-11/175	Fr.	Has it all: D, passing, penetration, range.					
4	F	Jesse Pinegar	6-9/215	Fr.	Injuries threaten fine offensive skills.					
13	G	Michael Vranes	6-3/190	Sr.	A league-leading MWC guard if healthy.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Nathan Cooper*	6-5/210	4.5	3.8	1.3	47.8	72.7	36.7
G	Terrell Lyday*	6-3/190	16.4	2.8	2.0	40.3	82.2	39.7
F	Mikeli Wesley*	6-9/230	17.2	5.5	1.4	51.3	80.6	42.1
G	Trent Whiting*	6-1/180	14.2	3.2	2.4	43.2	81.9	39.0

Schedule

D12	Fort Lewis	J15	UNLV	F16	New Mexico
D15	Idaho	J19	at New Mexico	F18	Air Force
N17	at San Diego	J21	at Air Force	F23	Utah
N24	Arizona State	J28	at Utah	F28	at Wyoming
N28	at UC S. Barbara	D29	Southern Utah	M2	at Colorado State
D1	at Utah State	J2	San Francisco	F4	Colorado State
D5	Weber State	J5	at Pepperdine	F9	at UNLV
D8	Creighton	J12	San Diego State	F11	at San Diego St.

7. Colorado State

National Rank: 160

FRONTCOURT: Just when Garrett Patik and David Fisher had develop into solid players, they graduated. That doesn't help Dale Layer's cause as he starts his second year as coach. Brian Greene is a nice player, but he's not a banger, and so far he's not a big-time scorer. Perhaps he'll be able to produce if he gets the ball more often. Greene is the lone returning starter, so he's going to have to get used to playing with a lot of new faces. One of them figures to be 7-foot Matt Nelson, who redshirted last year. Another could be freshman swingman Freddy Robinson, who was rated one of the top 200 recruits nationally, as was freshman forward Matt Williams. One guy Greene does know is Matt Brown. The senior will get the chance to start at power forward or center, as will 6-10 JC transfer Darian Burke.

BACKCOURT: Not a lot of experience here, either. Andy Birley is the main man back. He averaged 5.7 points per game off the bench a year ago, but his role is about to change dramatically. Look for Birley to start at shooting guard unless transfer Ronnie Clark or redshirt Jon Rakiecki beats him out. JC transfer Joe Macklin will get first crack at running the team at the point, and he's a good one. He better be, because he'll face a lot of good point guards in this league. Jonathan Sanders showed some ability in limited minutes during his freshman year. He has a chance to be a solid contributor in time.

STRATEGY: Colorado State went from being the league's most experienced team to its least experienced as seven players, including five seniors, bid adieu. The Rams have just one senior, Brown, on the roster, which will make it tough to be competitive in a league that has improved talent-wise from top to bottom. Layer will need to be patient and hope the veterans provide some leadership while the newcomers learn.

8. Air Force

National Rank: 203

FRONTCOURT: If you think there are nothing but runts running around the Academy, guess again. They might struggle to fit into the cockpit of a fighter jet, but 6-7 Tom Bellairs is one of the top rebounders in the league and 6-6 Joel Gerlach received conference freshman of the year honors. Sophomore Robert Todd, who led all MWC freshman in scoring last season, has been reinstated after missing last season's final eight games for violating Academy rules. His return helps create a competitive front line. Second-year coach Joe Scott hopes senior center Bryan Summers, plus newcomers Jarrett Hess, Jake Merrell and Shawn McDaniel will provide quality depth.

BACKCOURT: The Falcons appear to be in decent shape here, too, at least as far as starters go. Vernard Jenkins is an underrated point guard, and he did a nice job adjusting from former coach Reggie Minton's up tempo game to Scott's deliberate pass-and-cut offense. Lamoni Yazzie is a smart player and a serious long-distance threat who also can hit his free throws. He should average double figures as a starter after averaging 8.8 points off the bench last year. After those two, there's a lot of unproven depth. Freshmen Tim Keller and Brandon Jones may make a contribution or may still be a year or two away. If so, sophomore swingman A.J. Kuhle will back up Yazzie.

STRATEGY: It was a tough adjustment for the Falcons, not only changing styles but going from the easy-going Minton to the super-intense Scott. But the Falcons were competitive last season. Although 3-11 may not seem impressive, consider that they beat Utah and New Mexico, both of which went to the postseason, and nearly beat BYU. Those are positive signs. The players seem to be buying into Scott's philosophy, and, with some luck and continued improvement, they might escape the cellar.

Rams Data

Coach: Dale Layer (15-13, 1 year; 182-100 overall record, 11 years).
Assistant coaches: Bill Peterson (1 year), Buzz Williams (1).
2000-2001 record: 15-13. Mountain West: 6-8/T5th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 195.

Last league title: 1990 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Fort Collins, Colo.
Website: www.csurams.com
Home court: Moby Arena (8,745).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
11	G	Andy Birley	6-4/190	Jr.	5.7	1.8	3.8	39.1	75.9	35.7
25	F	Matt Brown	6-9/215	Sr.	3.8	2.0	1.1	72.7	65.1	0.0
34	F/C	Darian Burke	6-10/250	So.	JC transfer averaged 1.6 blocks last year.					
20	G	Ronnie Clark	6-5/210	Jr.	Transferred from D-II Florida Southern.					
33	F	Brian Greene*	6-8/225	Jr.	7.8	5.8	3.0	50.9	72.9	50.0
2	G	Joe Macklin	5-11/175	Jr.	JC transfer faces stiff competition.					
54	C	Matt Nelson	7-0/220	So.	Redshirt gained seasoning, needs weight.					
21	G	Jon Rakiecki	6-3/195	So.	Will challenge for shooting guard slot.					
13	G/F	Freddy Robinson	6-5/180	Fr.	Top-200 recruit bolsters talent influx.					
1	G	Jonathan Sanders	6-7/195	So.	1.3	1.5	1.1	33.3	70.6	30.0
3	F	Quantone Smith	6-8/250	Jr.	Two-year starter at North Dakota State.					
42	F	Matt Williams	6-6/210	Fr.	Scored 2,061 points in high school.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	David Fisher*	6-10/230	11.7	3.8	1.0	58.8	61.3	66.7
G	Ron Grady*	6-4/205	11.5	5.1	1.5	41.0	78.6	37.5
G	Aki Palmer	5-10/170	6.0	2.3	3.2	37.5	61.5	38.6
F	Garrett Patik*	6-7/240	7.8	6.0	1.4	46.9	49.3	48.5
G	John Sivesind*	6-3/200	12.6	2.3	2.4	49.8	90.8	44.1

Schedule

N17	Montana State	D15	at Denver	J21	at UNLV	F16	San Diego State
N20	at Washington St.	D18	Southern Illinois	J26	Air Force	F18	UNLV
N23-25	Hawaii-Hilo Trn.	D20	IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	J28	New Mexico	F23	at New Mexico
N29	at Gardner-Webb	J2	at Baylor	F2	at Utah	F25	at Air Force
D1	at South Carolina	J5	Morris Brown	F4	at BYU	F28	Utah
D5	Colorado	J12	at Wyoming	F9	Wyoming	M2	BYU

Falcons Data

Coach: Joe Scott (8-21, 1 year).
Assistant coaches: Chris Mooney (1 year), Mike McKee (1st year), Larry Mangino (1), Jon Jordan (1).
2000-2001 record: 8-21. MWC: 3-11/8th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 227.

Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1962.
Site: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Website: www.airforcesports.com
Home court: Clune Arena (6,002).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
32	F/C	Tom Bellairs*	6-7/240	Jr.	9.7	7.3	2.2	46.1	63.7	26.5
33	F	Joel Gerlach*	6-6/185	So.	8.6	2.1	1.1	51.2	66.2	32.3
	F/C	Jarrett Hess	6-9/217	Fr.	True freshman was an all-Florida selection.					
22	G	Vernard Jenkins*	5-9/181	Jr.	6.7	2.1	3.8	37.4	67.9	28.4
	G/F	Brandon Jones	6-3/200	Fr.	Three-time all-city player in Atlanta.					
	G	Tim Keller	6-3/175	Fr.	A strong rebounder for a guard.					
10	G/F	A.J. Kuhle	6-3/200	So.	1.8	1.4	0.8	28.1	56.3	18.4
	F	Eric Lang	6-4/190	Fr.	Good scorer, rebounder and defender.					
2	G	Selwyn Mansell	5-9/165	Sr.	1.5	0.5	0.7	36.0	75.0	25.0
	F	Shawn McDaniel	6-8/195	Fr.	Led Colo. HS to 20-3 record his senior year.					
	C	Jake Merrell	6-10/230	Fr.	Helped Wyo. HS to state title as sophomore.					
50	F	Tysen Pina	6-7/202	So.	2.5	0.7	0.8	60.0	44.4	0.0
	G	Dan Stock	5-9/165	Fr.	An all-around athlete.					
35	C	Bryan Summers	6-8/200	Sr.	1.3	1.3	0.3	20.0	0.0	—
34	F	Robert Todd	6-6/200	So.	10.7	2.9	1.2	51.9	57.9	45.7
12	G	Lamoni Yazzie*	6-1/180	Sr.	8.8	2.2	1.5	43.9	88.0	43.7

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Jarvis Croff*	6-4/190	13.4	3.7	1.5	42.2	72.8	38.0

Schedule

N13-14	Guardians Cl.	D12	at Denver	J19	Utah	F18	at BYU
N18	Denver	D22	at Liberty	J21	BYU	F23	Wyoming
N24	at Navy	D29	Tennessee Tech	J26	at Colorado State	F25	Colorado State
N30-D1	Fresno State Tr.	J2	at No. Arizona	J28	at Wyoming	F28	at UNLV
D5	Arkansas State	J7	UNLV	F4	San Diego State	M2	at San Diego St.
D8	Oakland	J10	at Texas-P. Amer.	F9	New Mexico		
		J14	at New Mexico	F16	at Utah		

WESTERN ATHLETIC

BY ART GARCIA

The WAC might as well stand for We're Almost Complete. Change is the only thing constant in a league that has shuffled lineups almost yearly for a decade. For 2001-02, it's in with Boise State and Louisiana Tech and out with charismatic Billy Tubbs and TCU. The loss of the high-scoring Horned Frogs to Conference USA hurts, and the additions don't raise any eyebrows outside of Idaho or Ruston. It's not that BSU and Louisiana Tech are bad for the on-the-court product—both will battle for middle-of-the-pack status—but off the court, don't expect much in arena turnstile counts or TV interest.

The battle for the regular-season crown includes the regular cast of characters. Jerry Tarkanian's Fresno State team once again is long on talent, boasting player-of-the-year favorites Melvin Ely and Chris

Jefferies even after the dismissal of the combustible Tito Maddox.

If Tark keeps this collection of egos on the same page—no small task—the Bulldogs ought to be NCAA Tournament bound. Tulsa, with another new coach (John Phillips); Hawaii, with its foreign brigade; and SMU, without Jeryl Sasser (probably a good thing), should be right in the mix. Longtime WAC power UTEP is again a club to be reckoned with and the best bet to challenge Fresno State.

The rest of the league's teams are fighting for NIT crumbs, though lack of name recognition or high-profile coaches makes more than two postseason berths about as likely as a visit from Dick Vitale. Their only shot at the Dance is a league tournament upset. (See Hawaii, a season ago.)

ASCENDING:

UTEP. The Miners wholeheartedly adopted the personality of their coach, Jason Rabedeaux, and are running with it ... literally. The Don Haskins Center is rockin' once again, giving the Miners a true home-court advantage in an otherwise apathetic league. UTEP plays the kind of basketball fans enjoy (uptempo and above-the-rim) and maintains defensive integrity (coaches like that). Now in his third year, Rabedeaux

has his system and his players firmly in place. Even the loss of Brandon Wolfram, THE SPORTING NEWS' WAC player of the year, shouldn't slow down this team.

DESCENDING: SMU. It's hard to fall too far in a conference as top-heavy as the WAC, so the Mustangs' descent won't be that obvious in the standings. However, the momentum is slowing for a program that two years ago appeared on the verge of

Art Garcia, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Predictions

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Fresno State* | 7. Boise State |
| 2. UTEP* | 8. San Jose State |
| 3. Tulsa | 9. Nevada |
| 4. Hawaii | 10. Rice |
| 5. Southern Methodist | |
| 6. Louisiana Tech | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Eugene Costello, UTEP	5-10	165	Sr.
G/F	Predrag Savovic, Hawaii	6-6	225	Sr.
F	Chris Jefferies, Fresno State	6-8	216	Jr.
F	Kevin Johnson, Tulsa	6-7	215	Jr.
C	Melvin Ely, Fresno State	6-10	256	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Damon Hancock, SMU	6-4	195	Sr.
G	Gerrod Henderson, Louisiana Tech	6-4	208	Sr.
G/F	Quinton Ross, SMU	6-6	175	Jr.
F	Abe Jackson, Boise State	6-7	230	Sr.
C	Brian Stewart, UTEP	6-10	250	Sr.

Player of the Year

Melvin Ely, Fresno State

Newcomer of the Year

Hiram Fuller, F, Fresno State

Honor Roll

- Best shooter:** Dante Swanson, Tulsa
Best rebounder: Melvin Ely, Fresno State
Best playmaker: Greg Harrington, Tulsa
Best defender: Melvin Ely, Fresno State
Best dunker: Kevin Johnson, Tulsa
Best under 6-0: Eugene Costello, UTEP
Best over 6-10: T.J. McKenzie, Rice
Most versatile: Roy Smallwood, UTEP
Most flamboyant: Leonard Owens, UTEP
Best NBA prospect: Chris Jefferies, Fresno State



Thanks to Ely (right) and Jefferies, the Bulldogs are the WAC favorite despite the dismissal of Maddox.

PATRICK MURPHY-RACEY FOR TSN

perennial power status. Discipline and attitude problems and injuries kept a talented squad from even sniffing its potential last season. Damon Hancock and Quinton Ross are the only tried and true returning players to blend in with a lot of new faces.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL:

Brandon Wolfram, UTEP. The power forward was a coach's dream. Wolfram led the conference in scoring, balancing a soft touch with a willingness to bang inside, and was among its top rebounders.

Though senior center Brian Stewart plays a different game than Wolfram—closer to the basket—Stewart brings the same roll-your-sleeves-up attitude. Stewart proved he could score and rebound consistently over the second half of last season. Now it's time to prove it for a whole year.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER:

Hancock, SMU. Despite playing in the shadows of Jeryl Sasser last season, Hancock quietly became one of the WAC's steadiest players. Seemingly always in control, Hancock, a senior guard, scores, plays defense and keeps his teammates involved. Hancock doesn't look for the spotlight, and so far it has missed him.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER:

Terrance Green, Nevada. Despite leading the Pack in scoring the last two seasons, Green has yet to reach his promise. Green, a nephew of NBA veteran A.C. Green, has the talent to be one of the most exciting wing guards in the WAC, but his commitment and shot selection leave much to question.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT:

Mike Dement, SMU. How many more late-season collapses can the Mustangs faithful—those who are left, anyway—take? For the second consecutive year, SMU was cruising along to a certain NCAA berth only to have the bottom fall out—big time. Six consecutive losses to end last season, one that began with SMU as a favorite for the league title, dropped the Ponies into the second division and off the NIT radar. Dement feuded with star Sasser last season, more evidence he might have lost the team. Another nose-dive and Dement might lose even more.

BEST BETS: Fresno State recovers from Tito Maddox's dismissal and makes a third straight trip to the NCAA Tournament. But the Bulldogs get eliminated early, again. ... Despite being new to the league, former mid-major teams Boise State and Louisiana Tech won't finish in the conference cellar. ... Broken ankles and limbs hit Rice, again, forcing Willis Wilson into about 13 different starting lineups. ... Even with the homecourt edge, Tulsa will fail to win the WAC Tournament.

TSN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

- 1. Fresno State:** PF Hiram Fuller is an impact addition, and G Chris Sandy will contend for a starting job.
- 2. Louisiana Tech:** Possibly the best class in school history. Athletic group is guard-heavy.
- 3. SMU:** Playing time is available for Fs Patrick Simpson, Eric Castro and Gs Justin Isham, Brian Miller.
- 4. UTEP:** Got their stars last year but still a good haul. Freshman SGs T.J. Fontenette, Luke Martin will help.
- 5. San Jose State:** Hopes are on JC signee Oudie Baker (scoring), transfer Brandon Hawkins (leadership).
- 6. Hawaii:** Added size—three of four stand at least 6-8—but G Mark Campbell is the jewel.
- 7. Rice:** Corralled four high schoolers, including three guards. Brock Gillespie is a Mike Wilks clone.
- 8. Tulsa:** Signed just two, freshmen Gs Jarius Glenn and Trevor Meler, who won't be a factor this season.
- 9. Nevada:** Picked up three for the frontcourt, including 7-1 Australian Jason Eversteyn.
- 10. Boise State:** The standout of the class is freshman F Jason Ellis, expected to contribute right away.

RETURNING LEADERS

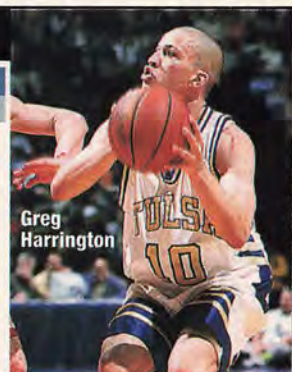
Name	School	PPG
Predrag Savovic	Hawaii	17.6
Damon Hancock	SMU	16.7
Melvin Ely	Fresno State	16.0
Chris Jefferies	Fresno State	15.5
Eugene Costello	Texas-El Paso	14.3
Name	School	RPG
Melvin Ely	Fresno State	7.5
Kevin Johnson	Tulsa	7.0
Brian Stewart	Texas-El Paso	6.7
Roy Smallwood	Texas-El Paso	6.1
Brandon Evans	Rice	5.3

Name	School	APG
Greg Harrington	Tulsa	5.4
Eugene Costello	Texas-El Paso	4.6
Andre Hazel	Nevada	3.7
Predrag Savovic	Hawaii	3.5
Damon Hancock	SMU	3.3
Name	School	FG%
Phil Martin	Hawaii	62.7
Brian Stewart	Texas-El Paso	58.3
Melvin Ely	Fresno State	58.3
Kevin Johnson	Tulsa	56.5
Dante Swanson	Tulsa	50.8

EXPANDED STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall		Home		Away/Neutral	
	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Fresno State*	13	3	26	7	17	1	9	6
Tulsa+	10	6	26	11	16	3	10	8
Texas-El Paso+	10	6	23	9	16	2	7	7
Texas Christian%	9	7	20	11	15	1	5	10
Hawaii*	8	8	17	14	13	5	4	9
Southern Methodist	8	8	18	12	10	2	8	10
San Jose State	6	10	14	14	9	5	5	9
Rice	5	11	14	16	10	5	4	11
Nevada	3	13	10	18	9	5	1	13

*Received NCAA bid. +Received NIT bid.
%Now member of Conference USA.



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TEAM STATS

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
Texas Christian%	31	45.9	74.7	37.0	39.7	18.9	12.0	5.7	14.0	93.6
Fresno State	33	47.0	68.1	35.5	37.5	18.0	10.1	6.5	16.6	81.5
Texas-El Paso	32	49.2	75.3	34.8	36.8	16.3	6.1	4.4	16.5	80.3
Southern Methodist	30	43.8	69.1	33.7	40.4	13.1	6.5	3.2	12.6	76.9
Tulsa	37	46.2	73.4	38.9	37.6	16.5	7.2	4.4	13.9	76.8
Hawaii	31	46.8	72.5	34.9	32.2	18.0	5.9	2.4	16.6	72.7
Nevada	28	40.3	67.2	34.1	37.6	13.2	7.3	1.6	14.9	70.7
San Jose State	28	45.1	72.3	33.1	35.0	11.9	4.8	3.1	14.6	64.5
Rice	30	39.8	70.5	35.3	35.4	11.0	6.6	2.6	13.8	62.9

Opponents' stats

Team	G	FG%	FT%	3%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PTS
San Jose State	28	41.5	69.6	31.0	29.0	12.9	6.1	2.3	12.3	63.5
Rice	30	40.1	71.7	30.2	35.1	13.5	6.2	3.1	13.0	63.8
Fresno State	33	41.1	66.4	31.3	36.5	11.9	6.6	1.8	18.8	64.3
Tulsa	37	40.9	69.7	33.9	35.0	12.5	7.5	4.1	13.9	68.6
Southern Methodist	30	43.3	68.1	33.8	36.7	15.5	5.4	3.5	13.4	71.9
Hawaii	31	46.3	71.5	37.6	32.4	13.6	7.7	3.1	15.3	73.1
Nevada	28	44.4	69.4	33.6	39.0	14.3	6.6	3.8	17.1	73.1
Texas-El Paso	32	41.3	71.4	33.2	37.1	13.2	8.3	2.9	14.8	74.6
Texas Christian%	31	45.3	67.4	36.6	40.7	17.4	7.6	4.0	20.3	82.3

%Now in Conference USA

1. Fresno State

National Rank: 25

Schedule

N13 Montana State*
N28 at Pacific
N30-D1 Fresno State Tour.
D4 San Francisco
D7 Gonzaga**
D8 at San Diego State
D11 at California
D15 Pepperdine
D20 Savannah State
D27 at Hawaii
D29 at San Jose State
J3 Rice
J5 Tulsa
J12 at Nevada
J17 at Boise State
J19 at UTEP
J24 SMU
J26 Louisiana Tech
J31 at Tulsa
F2 at Rice
F7 Nevada
F10 Oklahoma State
F14 UTEP
F16 Boise State
F21 at Louisiana Tech
F23 at SMU
F28 San Jose State
M2 Hawaii
*Preseason NIT
**at Las Vegas

FRONT COURT: Arguably the two best players in the league reside in the team's front court, giving the Bulldogs an almost unfair advantage. Melvin Ely, the WAC's most talented big man, and Chris Jefferies, its most versatile, complement each other well and demand constant attention from foes. Ely is pure activity—rebounding, blocking shots, scoring—and Jefferies stays within the flow, knowing when to pick his spots. Both players can take over a game at either end of the court. Outside of those two, there isn't much experience up front. Junior college transfer Hiram Fuller is the power forward the team missed last season and will get big minutes. Noel Felix and Mustafa Al-Sayyad are holdovers who contributed some last season. As long as Ely and Jefferies are healthy, there won't be much pressure on the others.

BACK COURT: Temperamental point guard Tito Maddox is gone, dismissed in August for accepting money from an agent and not paying it back. Maddox often said during his productive freshman season (in which he ranked fourth in the nation in assists) that a sophomore return was an even-bet proposition, so his departure isn't surprising. Attempting to fill the void is silky smooth transfer Chris Sandy, a second-team junior college All-American last season who can play either guard position. He averaged 16 points and

6 assists per game and led Westark College to a fifth-place finish at the NJCAA tournament. Also gone is rock-steady Demetrius Porter, leaving off-guard to junior Travis DeManby. Damon Jackson is in the mix, but questions remain if he is ready to take a bigger role.

STRATEGY: There's no secret to the style Jerry Tarkanian likes to play. The Bulldogs run, run and run some more, hounding opponents to death on defense. It's an NBA style of play that has attracted many athletes, some unfortunately on the shallow side, to swim in Shark's waters. With Ely and Jefferies leading the way, Fresno has a duo unmatched in the WAC and among the best in the country. The loss of Maddox hurts, leaving Tarkanian searching for players to fit roles—players who play defense, take care of the ball and rebound. Tark doesn't mess with the bench if he doesn't think the talent is there, as evidenced by the long minutes his starters traditionally play.

Bulldogs Data

Coach: Jerry Tarkanian (134-65, 6 years; 759-187 overall, 30 years; 38-17 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title with UNLV in 1990).

Assistant coaches: Danny Tarkanian (6 years), John Welch (6), Wil Hooker (3).

2000-2001 record: 26-7. WAC: 13-3/1st. Lost to Michigan State in NCAA South second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 45.

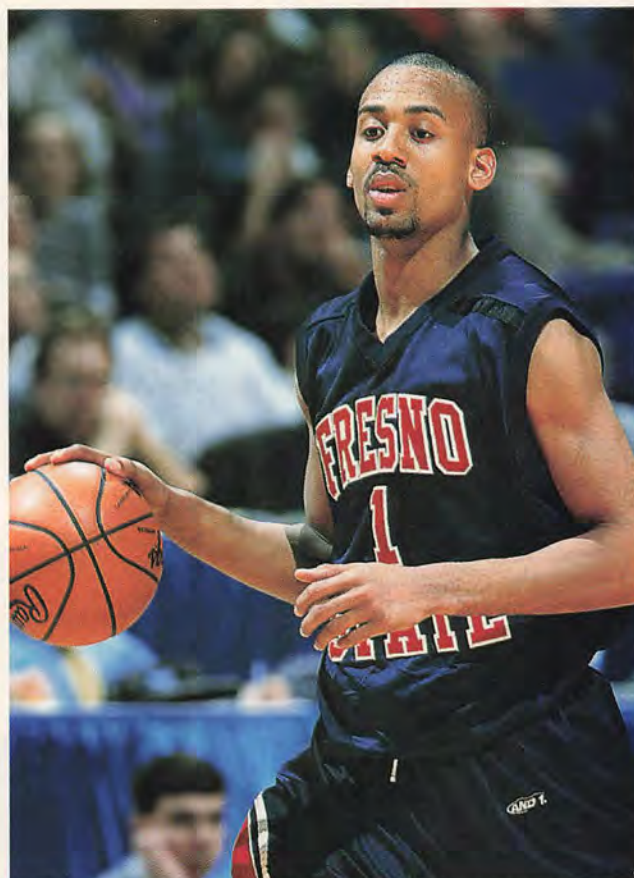
Last league title: 1997.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Fresno, Calif.

Website: www.gobulldogs.com

Home court: Selland Arena (10,220).



PATRICK MURPHY RACY FOR TSN

Jefferies, a small forward who made the WAC all-defensive team, can score from anywhere on the floor.

KEY TO SUCCESS: After four straight NIT seasons, Tarkanian's goal was just to get back in the NCAA fray. He has done that consecutive seasons, in addition to winning the school's first WAC title. The next step is making a dent in the postseason, but questions remain if this is the team to do it. Fresno lost major talent in Porter, Maddox and Shannon Swillis, but Ely and Jefferies can be special. The trick is to find a replacement for Maddox. Sandy possesses the talent, but had Maddox remained, Sandy would have started at off-guard. The move to the point could be difficult, especially in this offense. If Sandy becomes the floor general the Bulldogs need, Fresno cruises to the league title and possibly up through the Top 25. If not, another early March exit looms.

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Cl.
55	C	Mustafa Al-Sayyad	Khartoum, Sudan	6-9/225	So.
22	G	Travis DeManby	Medford, Ore.	6-4/200	Jr.
33	C	Melvin Ely*	Harvey, Ill.	6-10/256	Sr.
12	F	Noel Felix	Los Angeles	6-9/220	Jr.
3	G	Teddy Fletcher	Los Angeles	5-11/165	Fr.
25	F	Hiram Fuller	Tacoma, Wash.	6-9/240	Jr.
4	G	Damon Jackson	Perris, Calif.	6-4/196	So.
1	F	Chris Jefferies*	Fresno, Calif.	6-8/216	Jr.
10	F	Phil Rasmussen	Sacramento	6-7/195	Fr.
5	G	Chris Sandy	New York	6-1/180	Jr.

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Home	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Tito Maddox*	Compton, Calif.	6-4/190	13.5	5.8	8.0	39.1	70.3	28.6
G	Demetrius Porter*	Fresno, Calif.	6-0/170	15.2	2.3	2.9	44.1	77.1	38.7
F	Shannon Swillis*	Fresno, Calif.	6-8/210	7.0	6.2	1.2	59.9	60.0	7.7

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

Faces an uphill battle for playing time this season.
May have biggest impact of any WAC newcomer.
Pretty much in same boat as Fletcher.
2nd-team JC All-American steps in for Maddox.

2. Texas-El Paso

National Rank: 48

FRONTCOURT: Holding down the post is the always intense Brian Stewart. The 6-10, 250-pound center came into his own over the second half of last season, collecting double-doubles in six of the final 14 games. With conference player of the year Brandon Wolfram gone, Stewart becomes the Miners' first low-post option. Roy Smallwood and Leonard Owens, both 6-6, possess similar all-around games. Smallwood, a double-digits scorer his first two seasons, is more explosive on the break, and Owens always seems to be around the ball. Nick Enzweiler and Antone Jarrell played quality time as freshmen, and both provide depth and insurance if either Smallwood or Owens goes down. Stewart's backups are untested Joe Devance and Justino Victoriano.

BACKCOURT: It all starts, and nearly ends, with senior Eugene Costello. The diminutive point guard didn't waste any time taking the reins of the Miners' offense last season. Costello averaged 14.3 points and 4.6 assists as a junior transfer, and his play was often the indicator between a win or a loss. For example: UTEP went 15-1 when he committed two or fewer turnovers (8-8 otherwise) and 12-3 when he shot at least 45 percent. Chris Neal, a part-time starter last season, lines up alongside Costello. Neal can shoot it, but he's a defensive liability. Victor Lucus, a three-year letterman with a nice shooting touch, and freshmen T.J. Fontenette and Luke Martin round out the guard corps.

STRATEGY: Despite a frenetic, often out of control sideline-coaching demeanor, Jason Rabedaux's plan of rebuilding the one-time desert basketball power is moving ahead smoothly. The Miners play an up-tempo, entertaining brand of ball, and though it doesn't seem possible, the players are matching the energy of their coach, pushing UTEP into the WAC's upper echelon and into NCAA Tournament contention.

3. Tulsa

National Rank: 70

FRONTCOURT: One of the league's premier players, Kevin Johnson leads a cast of four lettermen. The rugged junior led the Hurricane in scoring (13.9), rebounding (7.0) and blocked shots (2.3) last season. He shot 56.5 percent (fifth in the WAC) and picked up more of the scoring load as Tulsa stormed to the NIT title. Two more juniors, Charlie Davis and Marqus Ledoux, are dependable rebounders who pick up points around the basket. Youngsters Jack Ingram and J.T. Ivie are both 6-10 but raw.

BACKCOURT: This is the deepest part of the squad because both starters and two other key contributors return. Senior point Greg Harrington is a two-year starter, a steady performer who distributes the ball as well as anyone in the WAC. Harrington is also a solid shooter expected to provide more scoring punch, prompting more time at off-guard. Complementing Harrington is 5-10 Dante Swanson, a lightning-quick, on-the-ball defender and adequate points-producer. Coming off the bench a year ago was Antonio Reed, who might find more time at point guard in a three-guard lineup. Like Swanson, Reed creates havoc on the defensive end. Jason Parker provides depth at both guard spots.

STRATEGY: New coach John Phillips is building around a deep and athletic backcourt. Hurricane guards can shoot it from the perimeter, but Phillips is also charging them with breaking down defenses, taking the ball to the basket to score or dump to the big guys. Expect a well-coached, disciplined team. Phillips, Tulsa's third coach in three years, should provide stability for a program that, despite its success, is constantly starting over. Should Tulsa put together another solid season—and there's no reason the Hurricane shouldn't be in the postseason—Phillips isn't going anywhere. Well, at least that's the hope.

Miners Data

Coach: Jason Rabedaux (36-24, 2 years).

Assistant coaches: Guy Beach (2 years), Ryan Carr (2) and Silvey Dominguez (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 23-9. WAC: 10-6/ T2nd. Lost to Memphis in NIT

second round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 122.

Last league title: 1992.

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: El Paso, Texas.

Website: www.utepathletics.com

Home court: Don Haskins Center (12,222).

Roster

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
11	G	Montrel Allen	5-8/145	So.	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0	—
25	G	Eugene Costello*	5-10/165	Sr.	14.3	3.9	4.6	40.9	71.4	32.5
21	F	Joe Devance	6-7/215	Fr.	El Paso native in frontcourt mix.					
23	F	Nick Enzweiler	6-6/220	So.	5.2	2.6	1.1	45.2	80.0	43.9
22	G	T.J. Fontenette	6-2/185	Fr.	Great athlete has a 42-inch vertical leap.					
15	F	Antone Jarrell	6-6/205	So.	2.0	1.4	0.7	36.4	31.8	29.6
20	G	Victor Lucus	6-1/170	Sr.	2.7	0.8	0.8	48.9	72.2	35.3
10	G	Luke Martin	5-11/165	Fr.	Won't be eligible until December.					
3	G	Chris Neal	6-2/175	Sr.	7.3	2.1	2.6	42.8	79.7	39.7
4	F	Leonard Owens*	6-6/190	Sr.	5.8	4.3	3.2	44.7	70.0	26.0
5	F	Roy Smallwood*	6-6/210	Jr.	10.5	6.1	2.0	50.0	74.4	25.6
35	C	Brian Stewart*	6-10/250	Sr.	11.8	6.7	0.8	58.3	74.3	—
50	F	Justino Victoriano	6-9/220	Jr.	Grew up in Luanda, Angola.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Brandon Wolfram*	6-9/240	22.3	7.6	0.9	59.1	82.4	33.3

Schedule

N16-17 Las Vegas Cl.	D21-22 Sun Classic	J17 Nevada	F9 Tulsa
N26 at Texas Tech	D28 at Louisiana Tech	J19 Fresno State	F14 at Fresno State
D1 at N. Mexico St.	D30 at SMU	J26 Boise State	F16 at Nevada
D6 Washington	J3 Hawaii	J28 Alcorn State	F20 New Mexico St.
D8 Texas A&M-C.C.	J5 San Jose State	J31 at San Jose St.	F23 at Boise State
D18 at Charlotte	J10 at Tulsa	F2 at Hawaii	F28 SMU
	J12 at Rice	F7 Rice	M2 Louisiana Tech

Golden Hurricane Data

Coach: John Phillips (1st year).

Assistant coaches: Steve Cooper (1st year), Kwanza Johnson (1st year), Pooh Williamson (1st year).

2000-2001 record: 26-11. WAC: 10-6/T2nd. Beat Alabama in NIT final.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 50.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Tulsa, Okla.

Website: www.tulsahurricane.com

Home court: Donald W. Reynolds Center (8,355).

Roster

*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
12	G	Kyle Blankenship	6-0/170	Fr.	Faces uphill climb for playing time.					
33	F	Charlie Davis	6-7/224	Jr.	3.1	3.6	0.3	58.4	51.1	—
11	F/G	Jarius Glenn	6-6/206	Fr.	Averaged 25.4 ppg, 10.6 rpg last season.					
10	G	Greg Harrington*	6-2/185	Sr.	10.8	2.8	5.4	47.1	73.3	46.8
50	F/C	Jack Ingram	6-10/225	So.	3.1	2.5	0.3	45.1	69.7	0.0
45	F/C	J.T. Ivie	6-10/240	Fr.	Injured knee just two games into last year.					
34	F	Kevin Johnson*	6-7/215	Jr.	13.9	7.0	0.7	56.5	74.9	60.0
32	F	Marqus Ledoux	6-8/200	Jr.	1.5	1.0	0.2	50.0	62.5	26.7
5	G	Gianni Martins	5-10/170	So.	Playing time could be sparse.					
4	G	Trevor Meier	6-6/190	Fr.	Led H.S. to 43-13 record as two-year starter.					
14	G	Jason Parker	6-2/175	So.	2.9	1.4	0.9	35.2	60.6	40.0
3	G	Antonio Reed	5-10/165	Jr.	7.6	2.6	2.6	40.6	69.6	34.9
1	G	Dante Swanson*	5-10/170	Jr.	9.8	3.6	2.3	50.8	68.6	44.4

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Marcus Hill*	6-5/195	12.7	4.7	2.9	42.5	80.0	35.5
F	David Shelton*	6-6/230	11.9	5.2	1.0	40.2	83.0	37.1

Schedule

N19 Grambling	D20-22 Pearl Harb. Cl.	J19 at SMU	F9 at UTEP
N24 Morris Brown	D29 at Kansas	J24 Nevada	F14 SMU
N28 Arkansas	J3 at San Jose St.	J26 Fresno State	F16 Louisiana Tech
D1 at Oral Roberts	J5 at Hawaii	J28 Rice	F21 at Fresno State
D4 SW Missouri St.	J10 UTEP	J31 Hawaii	F23 at Nevada
D8 at Wichita State	J12 Boise State	F2 San Jose State	F28 at Rice

4. Hawaii

National Rank: 82

FRONT COURT: Phil Martin and Carl English are two of the top young players in the conference. Martin, a starter last year as a freshman, led the WAC in field goal percentage (62.7) and averaged nearly nine points and more than four boards. With Troy Ostler and Nerijus Puida graduated, Martin's offensive production should spike. English, a sophomore, played a lead role in the Warriors' run to the WAC Tournament title and NCAA berth. Haim Shimonovich inherits the starting center job. The third sophomore on the starting front line, Shimonovich missed 22 games last season because of an NCAA suspension for playing in a European pro league. Despite his inexperience, the Israeli-born Shimonovich is long on potential.

BACK COURT: A pair of tested seniors handle the guard chores. Shooting guard Predrag Savovic, the team's leading scorer last season, is one of the WAC's best. Savovic might miss some time early in the season if suspended by the NCAA for the same reason as Shimonovich, but Hawaii officials expect Savovic back by the start of league play. When he gets on a roll, Savovic is one of the league's toughest players to match up against. Point guard Mike McIntyre isn't the best shooter, but he's a steady ballhandler and a solid defender. Though the job belongs to McIntyre heading into the season, he will be pushed by Mark Campbell, who joins the team after two seasons in junior college.

STRATEGY: Hawaii could struggle early if the NCAA levels suspensions on Savovic and Bosko Radovic. Coach Riley Wallace's club surprised many with its WAC tourney win, especially considering the team's struggles off the island in recent years. Hawaii balances up-and-comers with talented veterans and could surprise again come March if it finds the consistency demonstrated late last season. If not, another roller-coaster season is in the offing.

Rainbow Warriors Data

Coach: Riley Wallace (216-198, 14 years; 231-225 overall, 16 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Bob Nash (13 years), Jackson Wheeler (10), Scott Rigot (2).
2000-2001 record: 17-14. WAC: 8-8/15th. Lost to Syracuse in NCAA

Midwest first round.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 138.
Last league title: 1994.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Honolulu.
Website: www.uhathletics.hawaii.edu
Home court: Stan Sheriff Center (10,300).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
	F	Nkerunem Akpan	6-8/230	Fr.	The only true freshman on the roster.					
21	F	Mindaugas Bumeika	6-7/225	Sr.	7.4	2.7	1.2	46.8	81.6	42.3
	G	Mark Campbell	6-4/180	Jr.	A lot is expected from former JC guard.					
23	G	Carl English	6-4/178	So.	4.9	3.1	1.6	47.0	66.7	36.4
25	G	Ryne Holliday	5-10/150	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.0		—	—
	F	Paul Jesinskis	6-8/220	Jr.	Will vie for minutes in thin frontcourt.					
2	F	Phil Martin*	6-7/198	So.	8.8	4.2	0.7	62.7	71.6	—
3	G	Mike McIntyre*	6-3/205	Sr.	7.1	1.6	2.1	39.4	82.9	31.0
4	F	Bosko Radovic	6-9/220	Fr.	Was redshirted last year with a broken leg.					
1	G/F	Predrag Savovic*	6-6/225	Sr.	17.6	4.7	3.5	45.2	74.1	35.7
14	F/C	Haim Shimonovich	6-10/245	So.	2.1	2.6	0.7	57.1	50.0	—
10	G	Lance Takaki	5-4/135	Jr.	0.2	0.2	0.3	100.0	0.0	—
	F	LucArthur Vebobe	6-9/200	Jr.	Playing time is available if he can play.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	David Hilton	5-11/145	Left school.					
F/C	Troy Ostler*	6-10/205	15.5	5.9	2.2	49.5	70.5	0.0
F	Nerijus Puida*	6-5/195	9.3	5.8	4.4	46.7	71.4	41.2

Schedule

N16-18 Hawaii Nike Cl.	D29	Fresno State	J24	at Rice	F21	Tulsa
N23-25 Big Island Invit.	J3	Nevada	J26	at Tulsa	F23	Rice
N27 Northwestern St.	J5	at UTEP	J31	Boise State	F28	at Nevada
D10 Alcorn State	J10	at Boise State	F2	UTEP	M2	at Fresno State
D14 San Diego State	J12	Louisiana Tech	F7	at SMU		
D19-22 Rainbow Cl.	J19	SMU	F9	at Louisiana Tech		
		at San Jose State	F16	San Jose State		

5. Southern Methodist

National Rank: 90

FRONT COURT: For the last four years, the Mustangs have been Jeryl Sasser's team. But with Sasser gone, his clone, Quinton Ross, is ready to take over. Ross, a 6-6 junior swingman from the same high school as Sasser, plays the same kind of game, with a better shooting touch. Rangy, quick and always around the ball, Ross can be one of the WAC's best all-around performers. True freshman Patrick Simpson is slated to start at power forward. The 6-9 Colorado native has the wingspan of a 7-2 player, likes to mix it up inside and can score. It will be center by committee, with Mike Niemi, Jon Forinash and Nigel Smith all in the mix. Newcomers Eric Castro and Billy Pharis also figure into the front-court rotation. Jibran Kelley started 19 games last season, but it looks like he'll fall into a reserve role this season.

BACK COURT: Damon Hancock and Lavardicus "Voc" Atkins are easily the most experienced guards on the roster. Hancock, a senior, came into his own last season as the starting point guard. He can score, distribute and play great defense. Atkins came off the bench as a freshman, playing only about 11 minutes per game, but he proved his worth. He shot 51 percent from the field, including 46 outside the arc, and was fifth on the team in assists. A pair of 6-5 athletic freshmen, Justin Isham and Brian Miller, are expected to play right away. Both were highly recruited and are perfect fits in Mike Dement's system.

STRATEGY: Without Sasser and double-figures scorer Willie Davis, this appears to be a rebuilding season. The cupboard isn't bare, especially with Ross and Hancock, but for a team that is used to being a WAC title contender, this is different. The new faces and inexperience might work in the Mustangs' favor if the commitment to better teamwork is there. That was something lacking at times when Sasser was around.

Mustangs Data

Coach: Mike Dement (96-78, 6 years; 218-201 overall, 15 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
Assistant coaches: Jimmy Tubbs (11 years), Robert Lineburg (5), Simon Cote (3).
2000-2001 record: 18-12. WAC:

8-8/15th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 32.
Last league title: 1993 (SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Dallas.
Website: www.smumustangs.com
Home court: Moody Coliseum (8,998).

Roster			*2000-2001 starter; bold names: projected starter							
No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
23	G	Voc Atkins	6-3/190	So.	4.4	0.9	0.9	51.3	53.8	45.7
21	F/C	Eric Castro	6-8/250	Fr.	Excellent passer with solid post moves.					
20	G	Michael Dement	5-11/180	Fr.	Coach's kid could be on bench with dad.					
54	C	Jon Forinash	6-11/270	Sr.	0.9	1.8	0.1	50.0	09.1	—
4	G	Damon Hancock*	6-4/195	Sr.	16.7	3.5	3.3	44.3	75.1	34.4
22	G	Ryan Hatch	6-1/165	Fr.	Playing time could be sparse.					
3	G	Justin Isham	6-5/185	Fr.	Comes from same high school as Hancock.					
33	F	Jibran Kelley*	6-8/225	Jr.	3.4	3.9	0.6	46.9	73.0	—
24	G/F	Kris Lowe	6-6/208	So.	2.3	1.1	0.4	50.0	77.8	22.2
52	G	Peter McNulty	6-0/180	Jr.	Another body in a crowded backcourt.					
5	G	Brian Miller	6-5/195	Fr.	Shooting ability could earn him early P.T.					
2	G	Andre Nedd	5-10/185	So.	0.8	0.3	0.1	100.0	0.0	—
55	F	Mike Niemi	6-9/270	Sr.	3.9	2.5	0.4	38.9	64.9	50.0
40	F	Billy Pharis	6-8/230	Jr.	Excellent shooter with good range.					
13	G/F	Quinton Ross*	6-6/175	Jr.	14.2	5.1	2.0	47.6	74.1	37.2
1	F	Patrick Simpson	6-9/210	Fr.	Expected to have an immediate impact.					
50	C	Nigel Smith	6-10/235	Jr.	1.2	1.3	0.1	39.1	60.0	—

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G/F	Willie Davis*	6-6/230	11.9	7.3	1.3	43.6	65.0	32.6
F	DeWayne Floyd	6-8/225	Left school.					
G	Jeryl Sasser*	6-6/200	17.0	8.3	4.2	39.4	71.8	28.7

Schedule

N16 Savannah State	D14	Tennessee	J12	at Hawaii	F9	San Jose State
N18 Navy	D18	Oral Roberts	J17	Rice	F14	at Tulsa
N20 Texas Tech	D28	at TCU	J19	Tulsa	F16	at Rice
N27 at Baylor	D30	Boise State	J24	at Fresno State	F21	Nevada
N30-D1 Hawkeye Cl.	D30	UTEP	J26	at Nevada	F23	Fresno State
D4 at North Texas	J5	at Louisiana Tech	F2	Louisiana Tech	F28	at UTEP
	J10	at San Jose State	F7	Hawaii	M2	at Boise State

6. Louisiana Tech

National Rank: 147

FRONTCOURT: The only proven commodities up front are junior forwards Antonio Meeking and Zach Johnson. The 6-8 Meeking started every game last season, leading the team in rebounding and finishing second in scoring. Johnson started 15 games but finished second to Meeking in rebounding at 5.3. Junior college transfer Joe Sykes is a big body (6-10, 250) who is expected to contribute right away, chiefly on the boards.

BACKCOURT: Senior guard Gerrod Henderson, a former Prop 48 casualty who was granted a fourth year of eligibility, remains the Bulldogs' top gun. The 6-4 sharpshooter can drain the 3, take it to the hoop and is nearly automatic at the line. Another potentially explosive scorer, 6-5 Marco Cole, is also a strong rebounder. Newcomers abound in the backcourt, led by Lawrence Williams, Darrian Brown, Michael Wilder and Lavelle Felton. Williams and Brown transferred from big-time programs (Texas and Ole Miss, respectively) where each contributed two seasons ago. Wilder and Felton are prized junior college catches. Brian Martin, a returning junior, and sophomore Daryl Ford, who is Karl Malone's son, might struggle to find playing time.

STRATEGY: The Bulldogs appear guard-heavy, but that's not necessarily a bad thing in this conference. Coach Keith Richard might elect to go with three or four guards at times, especially with little depth up front. Tech is best suited for controlled games with scores in the mid 60s or 70s. Last season, the magic number for the Bulldogs was 64 points—they were 15-2 when they reached that threshold and 2-10 otherwise. The incoming class is being touted as the possibly the strongest in school history—even better than the 1981 group that included Malone. Richard likes his team, but Year One in the WAC promises to be a feeling-out process for the Dogs.

Bulldogs Data

Coach: Keith Richard (57-29, 3 years).
Assistant coaches: Steve Forbes (2 years), Johnny Simmons (3), Kevin Caballero (2).
2000-2001 record: 17-12. Sun Belt East: 10-6/T2nd.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 134.
Last league title: 1999 (Sun Belt).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Ruston, La.
Website: www.latechsports.com
Home court: Thomas Assembly Center (8,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
24	G	Darrian Brown	6-5/205	Jr.	Got into 53 games at Ole Miss in two years.					
21	G	Marco Cole*	6-5/190	Sr.	12.3	5.0	1.0	40.3	79.7	32.5
10	G	Bruce Edwards	6-2/180	Fr.	Blocked 47 shots in high school last year.					
1	G	Lavelle Felton	6-4/200	Jr.	No time to wait; he will start right away.					
31	G	Daryl Ford	6-3/215	So.	Twin sister plays on Tech's women's team.					
3	G	Gerrod Henderson*	6-4/208	Sr.	18.4	5.0	2.6	42.0	83.8	33.7
25	F	Zach Johnson	6-10/245	Jr.	7.6	5.3	0.3	60.4	70.8	—
22	G	Brian Martin	6-1/180	Jr.	3.1	1.5	0.8	32.9	100.0	32.1
34	F	Antonio Meeking*	6-8/245	Jr.	14.0	7.6	1.1	55.3	48.7	0.0
4	F/C	Wayne Powell	6-9/245	Fr.	Averaged 22 ppg, 15 rpg, 3.0 bpg last year.					
35	C	Joe Sykes	6-10/250	Jr.	JC transfer signed with Louisville out of H.S.					
14	G	Michael Wilder	6-2/185	Jr.	Hit 96 3-pointers for JC team last season.					
23	G	Lawrence Williams	6-1/185	Sr.	Started 19 games at Texas two years ago.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Marcelle Davis*	6-2/195	5.5	2.2	1.5	49.5	71.4	38.5
C	Jon Fowler	6-10/237	2.7	2.4	0.5	40.7	45.2	—
G	Travis Lewis*	6-0/185	3.3	2.6	4.3	39.1	77.8	32.4
G	Nick Stamps	6-1/160	4.9	1.9	1.3	38.5	76.0	35.7

Schedule

N17	at Iowa	D22	Jackson State	J17	Tulsa	F9	San Jose State
N20	Harding	D28	UTEP	J19	Rice	F14	at Rice
N27	at Oklahoma	D30	Boise State	J24	at Nevada	F16	at Tulsa
D1	at Jackson State	J5	SMU	J26	at Fresno State	F21	Fresno State
D4	at Auburn	J10	at San Jose St.	J30	at Centenary	F23	Nevada
D15	Centenary	J12	at Hawaii	F2	at SMU	F28	at Boise State
				F7	Hawaii	M2	at UTEP

7. Boise State

National Rank: 161

FRONTCOURT: The Broncos' scoring and leadership load falls on senior Abe Jackson, who despite never playing in the WAC immediately becomes one of the league's top forwards. An All-Big West first-team selection last season, Jackson averaged 17.4 points as a junior and led the league with 83 3-pointers. Complementing Jackson is rugged power forward Richard Morgan. Morgan, who spent most of the previous three seasons at center, moves to his natural position as a senior. He shot a team-best 59.1 percent but averaged just 3.3 rebounds. Freshman forward Jason Ellis could be an immediate contributor, especially on the glass. Senior Trever Tillman is another big body.

BACKCOURT: The key lies with the healthy return of point guard C.J. Williams. Out all of last season rehabbing a surgically repaired left knee, Williams is expected back healthy. Williams distributes the ball well and is a strong defender, but his savvy is just as important. Booker Nabors turned in a solid freshman year, averaging 9.5 points and a team-high 3.3 assists. A good shooter, Nabors shot 48 percent; he is a nice sidekick to Williams. Joe Skiffer, a junior who filled in for Williams last season, also returns.

STRATEGY: The Broncos must find a replacement for forward Kejuan Woods, who scored more than 14 points per game. Boise State enters the WAC after a five-year stay in the Big West. Rod Jensen is the second-winningest coach in school history, with five winning seasons in six years. Jensen preaches defense, and BSU ranked in the top 25 in scoring defense twice in the last three years. The Broncos have experience and size. The roster includes nine lettermen, eight of whom have started at least one game, and eight of the 14 are 6-7 or taller. But it's difficult to see the Broncos finishing much better than seventh in the league.

Broncos Data

Coach: Rod Jensen (96-76, 7 years).
Assistant coaches: Ed Boyce (6 years), Mark Folsom (2), Jeff Drinkwine (1st year).
2000-2001 record: 17-14. Big West: 8-8/T5th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 142.
Last league title: 1994 (Big Sky).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Boise, Idaho.
Website: www.broncosports.com
Home court: BSU Pavilion (12,380).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
31	F	Justin Burns	6-7/190	Fr.	Led HS team to 30-3 record last season.					
1	G	Bryan DeFares	6-3/210	So.	1.8	1.4	0.7	47.5	57.1	20.0
13	F	Jason Ellis	6-7/220	Fr.	Averaged 16 ppg, 13 rpg in H.S. last year.					
21	F/G	S. Fraser-Dauphinee	6-7/210	So.	Solid outside shooter redshirted last season.					
44	F	Kenney Gainous	6-8/205	So.	1.4	1.4	0.2	40.0	46.7	0.0
33	F	Robby Gerichs	6-9/200	Jr.	Expected to be part of frontcourt rotation.					
32	F	Abe Jackson*	6-7/230	Sr.	17.4	5.7	1.6	42.6	78.6	40.3
35	F	Richard Morgan*	6-8/240	Sr.	7.2	3.3	0.9	59.1	60.9	0.0
20	G	Booker Nabors*	6-3/180	So.	9.5	2.8	3.3	47.7	69.4	23.9
30	G	Cory Ortiz	6-4/215	Jr.	Shot 45 percent from 3-point range in JC.					
4	G	Joe Skiffer*	6-2/195	Jr.	3.5	2.5	3.2	39.3	62.0	30.8
34	C	Trever Tillman	6-11/260	Sr.	4.8	2.8	0.3	45.9	65.8	—
3	G	C.J. Williams	6-0/175	Jr.	Sat out last season with a knee injury.					
22	G	Solomon Wyatt	6-2/175	Fr.	True freshman must learn system first.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Delvin Armstrong	6-4/200	9.5	3.0	1.4	43.0	80.7	40.8
G	Clint Hordemann	6-3/190	7.1	4.8	1.8	42.2	48.4	28.0
F	Kejuan Woods*	6-6/205	14.6	3.6	1.1	47.6	69.0	34.9

Schedule

N17	Portland State	D8	at San Diego	J10	at Rice	F9	Rice
N20	at Utah	D12	Wyoming	J12	at Tulsa	F14	at Nevada
N24	Idaho	D15	Southern Utah	J17	Fresno State	F16	at Fresno State
N29	at E. Washington	D18	Northern Arizona	J19	Nevada	F23	UTEP
D1	at Idaho	D28	at SMU	J26	at UTEP	F28	Louisiana Tech
D5	Lewis-Clark	D30	at Louisiana Tech	J31	at Hawaii	M2	SMU
		J3	San Jose State	F2	at San Jose St.		
		J5	Hawaii	F7	Tulsa		

8. San Jose State

National Rank: 166

FRONTCOURT: Woefully undersized in the past, the Spartans aren't this year. David Granucci, 6-9, and Marion Thurmond, 6-8, are solid rebounders and defenders in the post. Though both possess a soft touch, neither figures to fill up the basket on a consistent basis. Granucci is the most experienced returning player, with 25 starts last season, but he averaged just 20.8 minutes a game. Points are expected to come from transfer Carlton "Oudie" Baker, one of the WAC's top newcomers. The 6-6 swingman lit it up in at Barton County (Kan.) CC, and he'll have a green light on a relatively inexperienced squad. Small forward Andre Valentine has shown a tendency to score in spurts but is still unproven.

BACKCOURT: It could be a while before the Spartans find their floor general. Iowa State transfer Brandon Hawkins is the odds-on favorite to get the point job, but he won't be eligible until after the semester break. The coaches are high on Hawkins, but he hasn't played since last December, so expect some sluggishness during the transition. Until then, look for returning player Scott Sonnenberg to handle the point duties. He is joined by Bim Okunrinboye in the mix at point guard, but Sonnenberg's ability to shoot means minutes at off-guard when Hawkins takes over.

STRATEGY: It all starts with defense and rebounding. During the past two seasons, coach Steve Barnes milked the most out of a group of undersized overachievers by grinding it out, possession to possession. Though the Spartans again promise to be among the league leaders, if not the leader, in fewest points allowed and rebounding, they'll struggle to replace four seniors who each averaged double figures in scoring for their careers. The Spartans will give every team in the league, top to bottom, fits, but their destiny is another second-division finish.

Spartans Data

Coach: Steve Barnes (29-29, 2 years).
Assistant coaches: Patrick Springer (2 years), Don Funk (2).
2000-2001 record: 14-14. WAC: 6-10/7th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 143.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: San Jose, Calif.

Website: www.sjsuspartans.com

Home court: The Event Center (5,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
4	G	Moises Alvarez	6-1/183	Jr.	Redshirted last year to gain seasoning.					
	F	Oudie Baker	6-6/185	Jr.	7th-leading scorer in JC ranks last year.					
	G	Gary Black	6-3/195	Jr.	Another JC transfer expected to start.					
	G	Phil Calvert	6-2/185	Jr.	Newcomer in the backcourt mix.					
	C	Garvin Davis	6-11/235	Jr.	Has good size but a project.					
	G	Ryan Davis	6-1/175	Fr.	Lacks experience, but so do most Spartans.					
15	F/C	David Granucci*	6-9/216	Sr.	2.5	4.4	1.0	44.1	63.0	—
	G	Brandon Hawkins	6-3/185	Jr.	Will be eligible at end of fall semester.					
	F	James Jenkins	6-7/205	Fr.	One of only two true freshmen on roster.					
14	G	Bim Okunrinboye	5-11/191	So.	1.0	0.6	1.1	40.0	50.0	42.9
12	G	Scott Sonnenberg	5-11/167	Sr.	4.8	0.8	1.8	41.4	77.8	38.5
45	C	Marion Thurmond	6-8/276	Sr.	5.6	3.9	0.5	50.0	78.6	—
23	F	Andre Valentine	6-4/187	Sr.	4.5	2.0	0.6	37.0	45.2	20.0
	F	Eric Washington	6-7/225	So.	Teammate of Baker's at Barton County CC.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Mike Garrett*	6-0/195	12.2	2.8	2.0	39.6	84.6	41.1
G/F	Billy Landram*	6-5/182	9.0	3.0	1.9	34.6	78.9	27.1
F	Cory Powell*	6-5/205	13.6	7.1	1.2	49.8	68.0	29.6
F	Darnell Williams*	6-6/197	12.5	7.3	2.3	54.3	76.9	50.0

Schedule

D12	Menlo College	J12	Louisiana Tech	F9	at SMU
N14-16	BCA Tournament	D22	Mount St. Mary's	F16	at Hawaii
N21	CS Sacramento	D27	Nevada	F21	Rice
N27	at Santa Clara	D29	Fresno State	F23	Tulsa
N30-D1	Cyclone Chall.	J3	at Boise State	F28	at Fresno State
D5	St. Mary's	J5	at UTEP	M2	at Nevada
D8	at Pacific	J10	SMU	F7	at Louisiana Tech

9. Nevada

National Rank: 201

FRONTCOURT: Some able bodies return, though none stands out as a potential all-league candidate. Sophomore center Sean Paul (6-9, 240) enjoyed a solid rookie season, averaging 5.2 points and 4.0 rebounds. He's one of the pieces Trent Johnson is building the future of the program around. Forwards James Bayless and Corey Jackson both had their moments last season but not enough of them. Bayless scored a career-high 24 points in a win over UNLV and notched a double-double against Washington State. But for the season, Bayless averaged just over six points and under four boards. Jackson grabbed 4.8 rebounds and scored 5.1 points in just 13.4 minutes of playing time, but as a senior, he must step up his performance.

BACKCOURT: The heart of the Wolf Pack lies in its guards, and three pretty good ones are back. There's no doubting Terrance Green can score, but after slumping for most of last season, the junior is looking to get back on track. Green doesn't have to do it alone, considering the strides made by Andre Hazel and Garry Hill-Thomas. As freshmen, both Hazel and Hill-Thomas were thrown into the fire, and each performed admirably. The three guards all must shoot better and take better care of the ball.

STRATEGY: This is a young team but not an inexperienced one. Though Johnson's team won't overwhelm opponents with sheer talent and needs more depth, he is quietly putting together a solid ballclub. The four newcomers, led by 7-1 Australian center Jason Eversteyn and guard Jerry Petty, just add to the group. Johnson plays a lot of people, placing a premium on hustle and hard work. The Pack is several seasons away from contending for a league title, but this scrappy bunch is moving in the right direction. Nevada should pull off some upsets this season.

Wolf Pack Data

Coach: Trent Johnson (19-38, 2 years).
Assistant coaches: Mark Fox (1 year), David Carter (2), Andy McClouskey (2).
2000-2001 record: 10-18. WAC: 3-13/9th.
2000-2001 preseason rank: 238.
Last league title: 1985 (Big Sky).

Last NCAA appearance: 1985.

Site: Reno, Nev.

Website: www.nevadawolfpack.com

Home court: Lawlor Events Center (11,200).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
0	F	James Bayless	6-7/220	Jr.	6.2	3.6	0.2	49.1	60.6	—
55	C	Jason Eversteyn	7-1/245	So.	Australian native only 7-footer on team.					
4	G	Terrance Green*	6-2/180	Jr.	11.8	3.1	1.8	37.1	79.6	34.3
2	G	Andre Hazel*	5-11/170	So.	8.9	2.2	3.7	33.9	77.1	32.4
23	G	Garry Hill-Thomas*	6-3/195	So.	7.2	2.2	1.4	40.5	65.1	14.3
30	F	Corey Jackson	6-7/230	Sr.	5.1	4.8	0.4	48.6	47.7	—
45	F	Matt Ochs	6-9/240	Jr.	1.6	1.8	0.3	27.5	48.3	—
42	F/C	Sean Paul*	6-9/240	So.	5.2	4.0	0.6	47.5	66.7	—
13	G	Jerry Petty	5-11/165	Jr.	Is very quick and understands the game.					
21	F	Kevin Pinkney	6-9/200	Fr.	In the frontcourt mix.					
1	F	Kirk Snyder	6-6/185	Fr.	Averaged 20 ppg, 10.3 rpg, 3.3 bpg as senior.					

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	Apq	FG%	FT%	3%
G	Donny Guerinoni	6-0/175	4.7	1.1	0.8	36.5	60.0	34.5
G	Adrian McCullough	5-10/170	6.2	1.1	2.2	35.3	76.1	30.4
F	Joao Santos	6-8/210	7.4	3.2	0.8	37.2	87.8	43.5
F	Richard Stirus*	6-5/190	7.9	8.0	1.3	55.3	54.5	—

Schedule

D8	CS Northridge	J12	Fresno State	F14	Boise State
D12	Southern Oregon	J17	at UTEP	F16	UTEP
N17	at CS Northridge	D15	Portland State	F19	at SMU
N21	at St. Mary's	D20	at UNLV	J24	Louisiana Tech
N24	at Arkansas State	D27	at San Jose State	J26	SMU
N28	San Francisco	D29	at Hawaii	J31	at Rice
D1	Santa Clara	J3	Tulsa	F2	at Tulsa
D5	at Montana	J5	Rice	F7	at Fresno State

10. Rice

National Rank: 205

FRONTCOURT: First, the good news: There are six bodies back in the frontcourt. The not-so-good news: Those returning players accounted for only about 15 points a game last season. Senior center T.J. McKenzie (6-11, 255) was the most productive of the group, averaging 6.1 points and 6.4 boards. McKenzie was coming into his own before suffering an ACL tear midway through the season. He's expected back healthy and should be a focal point on offense. In his place, big men Yamar Diene (6-9), Brandon Evans (6-9) and Ferron Morgan (6-10) showed flashes, though they're not projected to be more than bangers. Two untested slashers, junior Nick Robison and freshman Michael Harris, round out the rotation.

BACKCOURT: Much was expected of transfer Omar-Seli Mance last season, but he started slow and subsequently was lost with stress fractures in both legs. Mance has a nice shot, and paired with returning starter Shawn Tyndell, the Owls have a solid starting backcourt. The offense will funnel through Tyndell, one of only two Owls to start all 30 games last season. Backing up Tyndell and Mance are two little-used returning players—Michael Walton and Rashid Smith—and four freshmen. From the first-year group, Brock Gillespie and Jason McKrieth likely will battle for time.

STRATEGY: Rice lost its two leading scorers in Mike Wilks (20.1 ppg) and Erik Cooper (13.2), so finding points will be a challenge. Though Tyndell, McKenzie and Mance are the most likely scorers, everyone will have to chip in. That would suit coach Willis Wilson just fine. Forced to rely too much on Wilks last season, Wilson would love to spread the wealth. Wilson gets the most out of his talent, as evidenced by a respectable 14-16 record last season despite the injuries, but the Owls will struggle to avoid the cellar.

Owls Data

Coach: Willis Wilson (117-136, 9 years).

Assistant coaches: Marty Gross (12 years), Todd Smith (13), Marty Gillespie (1).

2000-2001 record: 14-16. WAC: 5-11/8th.

2000-2001 preseason rank: 216.

Last league title: 1970 (Southwest).

Last NCAA appearance: 1970.

Site: Houston.

Website: www.riceowls.com

Home court: Autry Court (5,000).

Roster

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
3	G	Shawn Collins	6-2/185	So.	Transfer from Loyola (La.).					
42	F	Yamar Diene	6-9/230	So.	2.7	2.8	0.4	41.3	67.4	—
4	F	Brandon Evans	6-9/250	Jr.	2.7	5.3	0.9	43.9	62.5	—
1	G	Brock Gillespie	6-0/165	Fr.	Son of assistant coach Marty Gillespie.					
33	F	Michael Harris	6-6/225	Fr.	Averaged 27 ppg, 19 rpg in H.S. last year.					
12	F	Christian Kollik	6-7/210	So.	0.6	0.6	0.2	26.7	0.0	37.5
0	G	Omar-Seli Mance*	6-2/190	Jr.	4.8	3.2	2.5	33.3	81.4	18.9
5	C	T.J. McKenzie*	6-11/255	Sr.	6.1	6.4	0.6	51.8	62.1	—
34	G	Jason McKrieth	6-4/210	Fr.	Probably the best leaper on the team.					
32	C	Ferron Morgan	6-10/237	Jr.	2.5	2.8	0.3	30.2	60.3	—
31	G/F	Nick Robison	6-6/210	Jr.	0.7	0.7	0.3	25.0	—	14.3
15	G	Rashid Smith	6-3/175	So.	1.4	0.6	0.4	41.4	56.3	37.5
22	G	Shawn Tyndell*	6-5/215	Sr.	10.5	3.2	1.7	35.8	69.0	37.4
11	G	Michael Walton	6-0/170	Jr.	2.5	0.6	0.8	37.7	75.0	38.2

Key Losses

Pos.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Ppg	Rpg	App	FG%	FT%	3%
F	Erik Cooper*	6-6/215	13.2	6.0	1.4	39.7	66.7	35.7
G	Mike Wilks*	5-11/180	20.1	4.9	3.0	43.8	78.1	38.6

Schedule

D21	Centenary	J19	at Louisiana Tech	F9	at Boise State
N16	Navy	D29	Siena	J24	Hawaii
N20	Lamar	J3	at Fresno State	J26	San Jose State
N27	at S.F. Austin	J5	at Nevada	J28	at Tulsa
N29	at Houston	J10	Boise State	J31	Nevada
D1	Baylor	J12	UTEP	F2	Fresno State
D4	Middle Tenn. St.	J17	at SMU	F7	at UTEP

NCAA Division I players who withdrew from consideration for the 2001 NBA draft

(Year of eligibility is for 2001-02 season, unless noted.)

Keith Bogans, Jr., Kentucky
 Sam Clancy, Sr., Southern California
 Patrick Doctor, Sr., American
 Corsley Edwards, Sr., Central
 Connecticut St.
 Jason Gardner, Jr., Arizona
 Reo Logan, So., Miami (Fla.)/
 Loyola (Ill.)[^]
 Tito Maddox, Soph., Fresno State[%]
 Tayshaun Prince, Sr., Kentucky
 Damien Wilkins, Jr., NC State/
 Georgia*

[^]Transferred to Loyola (Ill.) and will be eligible after the fall semester.

[%]Dismissed in August for violating NCAA guidelines regarding receipt of benefits from an agent.

*Transferred to Georgia and will be eligible for the 2002-03 season.

Clancy sparkled at the NBA Pre-Draft Camp but still opted to return to Southern California.



NCAA Division I underclassmen who were eligible for the 2001 NBA draft

DRAFTED

Name (draft round/overall pick)

Gilbert Arenas, Arizona (2/31)
 Brandon Armstrong, Pepperdine (1/23)
 Michael Bradley, Villanova (1/17)
 Jamison Brewer, Auburn (2/41)
 Jason Collins, Stanford (1/18)
 Omar Cook, St. John's (2/32)
 Samuel Dalembert, Seton Hall (1/26)
 Alton Ford, Houston (2/51)
 Joseph Forte, North Carolina (1/21)
 Eddie Griffin, Seton Hall (1/7)
 Trenton Hassell, Austin Peay (2/30)
 Kirk Haston, Indiana (1/16)
 Steven Hunter, DePaul (1/15)
 Richard Jefferson, Arizona (1/13)
 Joe Johnson, Arkansas (1/10)
 Troy Murphy, Notre Dame (1/14)
 Zach Randolph, Michigan State (1/19)
 Jason Richardson, Michigan State (1/5)
 Kenny Satterfield, Cincinnati (2/54)
 Bobby Simmons, DePaul (2/42)
 Will Solomon, Clemson (2/33)
 Gerald Wallace, Alabama (1/25)
 Rodney White, Charlotte (1/9)
 Michael Wright, Arizona (2/39)

UNDRAFTED

Malcolm Battles, New Mexico
 Tavorris Bell, Rhode Island
 SirValiant Brown,
 George Washington
 Edwin Daniels,
 Texas Christian
 Maurice Evans, Texas
 Jerry Green, UC Irvine**
 Rob Griffin, Iowa
 D.A. Layne, Georgia
 Zach Marbury, Rhode Island

**Did not sign with an agent and will return to UC Irvine for his senior season.

MID-AMERICAN

WEST DIVISION

1. Central Michigan

National Rank: 52

Coach: Jay Smith (41-68, 4 years; 64-74 overall, 5 years).

Starters lost (1): Tim Kisner, G (8.2 ppg, 4.6 apg).

Others lost: Jon Borovich, G; Luke Johnson, G (48.8 FG%, 75 FT%); Todd Schrottenboer, F.

Starters returning (4): Gerrit Brigitha, F/C, 6-8/So. (5.8 ppg); Mike Manciel, F, 6-5/Jr. (9.3 ppg); Chad Pleiness, F, 6-6/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 54.6 FG%); David Webber, G, 6-2/Sr. (18.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg).

Other returnees: Adam Dentlinger, F, 6-7/So.; Chris Kaman, C, 7-0/So. (9.8 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 57.4 FG%); T.J. Meerman, G, 6-3/So.; J.R. Wallace, G, 6-0/Jr.

Top newcomers: Tony Bowne, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS); Herb Goliday, G, 6-3/Fr.; Tom Pantlind, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Whitney Robinson, G, 5-11/Jr. (transfer/E. Kentucky).

Outlook: Webber, a brother of the NBA's Chris Webber, gives the team a dominant scorer capable of taking over a game. Expect Kaman to blossom as one of the top players in the MAC. Manciel, the MAC's top freshman in 1999, played last season with screws in an injured ankle. He had them removed during the summer and regained the mobility he lacked last season. The biggest change for Central Michigan will be at point guard, where Robinson should provide quickness and speed for a team that has lacked explosiveness for many years.

Last league title: 2001 (MAC West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: Mount Pleasant, Mich. **Home court:** Rose Arena (5,200). **Website:** www.cmuchippewas.com

2. Ball State

National Rank: 77

Coach: Tim Buckley (18-12, 1 year).

Starters lost (1): Josh Murray, F, (8.2 ppg, 8 rpg, transfer/IUPUI).

Others lost: Cedric Moodie, G (10.3 ppg, 42.7 3%).

Starters returning (4): Patrick Jackson, G, 5-10/Sr. (13.9 ppg, 4.1 apg, 42.8 3%); Lonnie Jones, G, 6-11/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 2.5 bpg, 51.3 FG%); Billy Lynch, G, 5-9/Sr.; Theron Smith, F, 6-8/Jr. (16.3 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 46.2 ppg, 36 3%).

Other returnees: Brian Burns, C, 6-8/Sr.; Mark Farris, F, 6-5/Jr.; Corey Harris, C, 6-8/Jr.; Robert Owens, F, 6-7/So.; Rob Robbins, G, 6-4/Jr. (6.6 ppg).

Top newcomers: Scott Bushong, F, 6-7/Fr.; Matt McCollom, G, 6-2/Fr.; Gabe Miller, F, 6-8/Fr.; Andrew White, G, 6-3/So. (transfer/Central Michigan); Chris Williams, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/Loyola, Ill.).

Outlook: Some of the players found it difficult to adapt to Buckley's demanding style last season. The players who stayed are committed to making it work. Smith can handle the ball well enough to play the point in a pinch and has the strength to push people around at center. He also has the perimeter-shooting skills and rebounding toughness to play anywhere in between. Murray's transfer leaves a hole in the team's rebounding, a category in which the team led the MAC. The other concern inside is how Jones will respond after surgery for a torn ACL in the spring. He isn't a fast healer. Williams should

give Ball State a boost in scoring and leadership.

Last league title: 2000 (tie, MAC West).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Muncie, Ind. **Home court:** Worthen Arena (11,500). **Website:** www.bsu.edu/sports

3. Western Michigan

National Rank: 113

Coach: Robert McCullum (7-21, 1 year).

Starters lost (1): John Powell, G/F (15.9 ppg).

Others lost: KC Cavette, G (6 ppg, 1.3 spg).

Starters returning (4): Reggie Berry, G, 6-4/So. (6.1 ppg); Taylor Bro, F, 6-7/Jr. (5.7 ppg, 5.2 rpg); Robby Collum, G, 6-1/Jr. (9.3 ppg); Steve Reynolds, F, 6-7/Sr. (14.8 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 75.2 FT%, 38.5 3%).

Other returnees: Pat Cleland, F, 6-5/Jr.; Anthony Kann, F, 6-7/So. (5.5 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 1 spg); Terrance Slater, G, 6-5/So. (5.2 ppg, 41.3 FG%, 76.7 FT%).

Top newcomers: Jeff Bronson, F, 6-7/Fr.; Nick Evola, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Steve Green, C, 6-10/Fr.; Antwan Joseph, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Ben Reed, G, 6-3/Fr.; Loren Scheu, G, 6-2/Fr.

Outlook: If the Broncos become more comfortable in McCullum's system, they are capable of surprising people. Reynolds brings size, experience and scoring ability to a frontcourt that lacks those attributes. He is a difficult matchup because he can play inside with his back to the basket and shoot from the perimeter. The Broncos spent much of last season experimenting with different lineups. That could be the case again as they try to mix in several outstanding freshmen. Reed has been called a mid-major steal.

Last league title: 1998 (MAC West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Kalamazoo, Mich. **Home court:** University Arena (5,800). **Website:** www.wmubroncos.com

4. Toledo

National Rank: 150

Coach: Stan Joplin (87-59, 5 years).

Starters lost (3): Robierre Cullars, F (9.1 ppg, 4.9 rpg); Craig Rodgers (6.8 ppg, 59.3 FG%); Greg Stempin, F (18.3 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 1 spg, 47.3 FG%).

Others lost: Rory Jones, G (7.7 ppg, 53.7 FG%).

Starters returning (2): Nick Moore, G, 6-1/Jr. (10.1 ppg, 93.9 FT%, 43.1 3%); Terry Reynolds, G, 5-9/So. (12.6 ppg, 4 rpg, 4.7 apg, 1.8 spg).

Other returnees: Milo Kirsh, F/C, 6-7/Jr. (4.3 ppg, 47.4 FG%); Garwin Patterson, G, 5-10/Sr.; A.J. Shellabarger, C, 6-9/So. (RS).

Top newcomers: Jim Clement, G, 6-6/Fr.; Anton Currie, F, 6-6/Fr.; Kareem Milson, F, 6-7/Fr.; Robert Sanders, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS); Ricardo Thomas, G, 6-7/So. (transfer/Eastern Kentucky); Keith Triplett, G, 6-3/So. (Prop 48); Sammy Villegas, G, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: Toledo will ask Reynolds to be a leader this season. That's a natural role for a point guard, but Reynolds must develop a better understanding of the game. He's a marvelous talent who played out of control too often last season. The backcourt will be the focus of the attack, with shooting guards Moore and Triplett expected to provide scoring punch. The Rockets lost three frontcourt starters. A committee of players, headed by Shellabarger, must take up the

Doug Zaleski, Muncie (Ind.) Star Press

Predictions

West	East
1. Central Michigan*	1. Bowling Green
2. Ball State	2. Ohio
3. Western Michigan	3. Marshall
4. Toledo	4. Miami (Ohio)
5. Northern Michigan	5. Kent State
6. Eastern Michigan	6. Akron
	7. Buffalo
	*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Trevor Huffman, Kent State	6-1	190	Sr.
G	David Webber, Central Michigan	6-2	210	Sr.
G	Tamar Slay, Marshall	6-9	210	Sr.
C	Brandon Hunter, Ohio	6-7	260	Jr.
F	Theron Smith, Ball State	6-8	225	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Terry Reynolds, Toledo	5-9	180	So.
G	Keith McLeod, Bowling Green	6-2	190	Sr.
C	Len Matela, Bowling Green	6-9	230	Sr.
C	J.R. VanHoose, Marshall	6-10	255	Sr.
F	Alex Shorts, Miami	6-8	239	Sr.

Player of the Year

Brandon Hunter, Ohio

Newcomer of the Year

Keith Triplett, G, Toledo

Honor Roll

Best shooter: David Falknor, Akron

Best rebounder: J.R. VanHoose, Marshall

Best playmaker: Brandon Pardon, Bowling Green

Best defender: Demetric Shaw, Kent State

Best leaper: Robert Brown, Buffalo

Most versatile: Theron Smith, Ball State

Most flamboyant: Terry Reynolds, Toledo

Best NBA prospect: Tamar Slay, Marshall

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
East				
Kent State*	13	5	24	10
Marshall	12	6	18	9
Ohio	12	6	19	11
Bowling Green	10	8	15	14
Miami	10	8	17	16
Akron	9	9	12	16
Buffalo	2	16	4	24
West				
Central Michigan	14	4	20	8
Toledo+	12	6	22	11
Ball State	11	7	18	12
Western Michigan	7	11	7	21
Northern Illinois	4	14	5	23
Eastern Michigan	1	17	3	25

*Lost to Cincinnati, 66-43, in NCAA West 2nd round.

+Lost to Alabama, 79-69, in NIT second round.

slack. Shellabarger, who started 12 games before redshirting, has good skills for a big man.

Last league title: 1981 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Toledo, Ohio. **Home court:** Savage Hall (9,000). **Website:** www.utrockets.com

5. Northern Illinois

National Rank: 271

Coach: Rob Judson (1st. year).

Starters lost (3): Mike Brown, G (12.5 ppg); Steve Determan, F; Stephen Jones, G (9.8 ppg, 7.3 rpg).

Others lost: Marcus Jankus, G; Jerry Saunders, F. **Starters returning (2):** Matt Nelson, C, 6-9/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 45.1 FG%); Leon Rodgers, F, 6-6/Sr. (16.6 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 40.7 3%, 76 FT%).

Other returnees: Sean Ezell, G, 6-4/Jr. (6.6 ppg); Mike Morrison, C, 6-9/Jr.; Al Sewasciuk, G, 6-4/So. (5.4 ppg); Marcus Smallwood, F, 6-6/So. (5 ppg, 1.1 spg, 52.2 FG%); Walter Thompson, G, 5-10/So.

Top newcomers: Eugene Bates, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Chris Lawson, G, 6-3/Fr.; Julian McElroy, G, 6-6/Fr.; P.J. Smith, G, 6-4/So. (transfer/Illinois State); Jamel Staten, F, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: Judson, a highly regarded assistant at Illinois, takes over a program that is thin on experience in the backcourt but boasts quality frontcourt players in Rodgers and Nelson. Rodgers blossomed last year as a scorer. His challenge will be to attack the basket more and become a presence in the paint. The Huskies need more leadership this season from Nelson. Sewasciuk must provide a 3-point shooting spark for a team that lost its top outside threat. The Huskies' backcourt could get a boost from Smith, who was on the Missouri Valley Conference all-freshman team two years ago.

Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: DeKalb, Ill. **Home court:** Chick Evans Field House (6,044). **Website:** www.niu.edu/athletics

6. Eastern Michigan

National Rank: 302

Coach: Jim Boone (3-25, 1 year; 276-162 overall, 15 years).

Starters lost (2): C.J. Grantham, G (10 ppg, 4.1 apg, 1.3 spg); Rod Wells, G.

Others lost: Shamar Herron, C (4.9 ppg).

Starters returning (3): Melvin Hicks, G, 6-3/Jr. (13.1 ppg); Ryan Prillman, F, 6-9/Jr. (9.8 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Tyson Radney, F, 6-8/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 8.3 rpg).

Other returnees: Ricky Cottrill, G, 6-3/So.

(12.3 ppg, 37.3 3%); Ben Romano, G, 6-4/Sr.

Top newcomers: Markus Austin, F, 6-6/Fr.; James Jackson, F, 6-9/So. (Prop 48); Steve Pettyjohn, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/Robert Morris); Michael Ross, G, 5-9/Fr.; Adam Sommer, F, 6-5/Fr.; Ryan Stennet, C, 6-10/Fr.

Outlook: Plenty of turnover and turmoil followed Eastern Michigan's three-win season. Grantham, a two-year starter at point guard, and Hopkins transferred because of differences with Boone. Hicks, last year's leading scorer, might not play this season after suffering a severe knee injury in the spring. Additionally, Herron opted not to return for his senior season. The Eagles need Cottrill and Pettyjohn to be huge contributors. Cottrill was having a nice freshman year before being derailed by low grades. Pettyjohn was valued so much last year that Boone named him a team captain last year while Pettyjohn sat out.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Ypsilanti, Mich. **Home court:** Convocation Center (8,824). **Website:** www.emich.edu/goeagles

EAST DIVISION

1. Bowling Green

National Rank: 62

Coach: Dan Dakich (65-48, 4 years).

Starters lost (1): Trent Jackson, G (10.5 ppg, 2 spg, 52.9 FG%, 35.1 3%).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (4): Brent Klassen, F, 6-8/Sr.; Len Matela, C, 6-9/Sr. (15.7 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 55 FG%); Keith McLeod, G, 6-2/Sr. (18.1 ppg, 1.7 spg); Brandon Pardon, G, 6-1/Sr. (10 ppg, 7 apg, 40.8 3%).

Other returnees: Josh Almanson, F, 6-8/So. (7 ppg, 67.5 FG%); Kris Gerken, G, 6-3/Jr.; Jabari Mattox, G, 6-0/So.; Kevin Netter, C, 6-10/So. (5.1 ppg); Cory Ryan, G, 6-5/Jr. (6.8 ppg, 39.1 3%).

Top newcomers: Erik Crawford, G, 6-4/Fr.; Cory Eyink, F, 6-8/Fr.; Germain Fitch, F, 6-5/Fr.; Kris Wilson, G, 5-10/Fr.

Outlook: Matela and McLeod form one of the MAC's top 1-2 scoring punches. Matela is a hard worker on the inside and is a good shooter and rebounder. McLeod is an outstanding perimeter threat who can drive past defenders. One thing Dakich wants from his team is more toughness. Opponents averaged 72.5 points and shot 45 percent from the field last season, and those numbers are not acceptable in Dakich's system.

Last league title: 2000 (MAC East).

Last NCAA appearance: 1968.

Site: Bowling Green, Ohio. **Home court:** Anderson Arena (5,000). **Website:** www.bgsufalcons.com

2. Ohio

National Rank: 83

Coach: Tim O'Shea (1st. year).

Starters lost (2): Dustin Ford, G, (7.6 ppg, 1.3 spg); Anthony Jones, G (12.7 ppg, 1.7 spg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (3): Patrick Flomo, C, 6-9/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 3.5 bpg); Brandon Hunter, F, 6-7/Jr. (18.1 ppg, 9.4 rpg, 51 FG%); Jon Sanderson, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.9 ppg).

Other returnees: Steve Esterkamp, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (10.7 ppg, 45.6 FG%, 39.5 3%, 80 FT%).

Top newcomers: James Bridgewater, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Sonny Johnson, F, 6-5/So. (transfer/Cleveland State); Zach Kiewkow, G, 6-1/Fr.

Outlook: O'Shea wants the Bobcats to turn up the heat on offense and defense. That shouldn't be a problem for Hunter, the most dominant physical presence in the MAC. He has exceptional hands for a big man, and he plays with a refreshing enthusiasm. Esterkamp, who has a lot of court savvy, gets things done on both ends of the floor. Flomo developed into a good offensive threat and outstanding defensive presence. The Bobcats need someone to emerge as a strong leader at point guard.

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Athens, Ohio. **Home court:** The Convocation Center (13,000). **Website:** www.ohiobobcats.com

3. Marshall

National Rank: 84

Coach: Greg White (86-54, 5 years; 205-208 overall, 15 years).

Starters lost (2): Cornelius Jackson, G (9.4 ppg,

5.7 apg); Travis Young, G (13.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg).

Others lost: Joda Burgess, G (7.9 ppg); Marques Evans, F; Sean Wuller, C.

Starters returning (3): Tamar Slay, G, 6-9/Sr. (17.3 ppg, 5.4 rpg); J.R. VanHoose, C/F, 6-10/Sr. (16.6 ppg, 11.1 rpg, 57.8 FG%); Latece Williams, F, 6-8/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 1.8 bpg, 54.2 FG%).

Other returnees: William Butler, F, 6-7/Sr. (RS); Monty Wright, G, 6-4/Jr.

Top newcomers: Ronald Blackshear, G, 6-5/So. (transfer/Temple); Enoch Bunch, G, 6-0/Fr. (RS); Ronny Dawn, G, 6-3/Jr.; Richard Wilson, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Marshall has one of the MAC's most formidable frontcourts. Steady but unspectacular VanHoose is a 20-point, 10-rebound threat every game. Slay, an outstanding 3-point shooter, is an NBA prospect. The biggest boost up front could come from Butler. He was pegged for starting duty last year but missed the season after tearing up a knee in the first practice. Marshall must replace its top three guards from last season. Blackshear should help shore up the backcourt when he becomes eligible at the end of the fall semester. He was a national top-40 recruit out of high school.

Last league title: 1995 (Southern).

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Huntington, W.Va. **Home court:** Henderson Arena (9,043). **Website:** www.herdzone.com

4. Miami (Ohio)

National Rank: 114

Coach: Charlie Coles (94-60, 5 years; 186-144 overall, 11 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Mike Ensminger, F (6.1 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 54.7 FG%); Jason Grunkemeyer, G (11.3 ppg).

Others lost: Rich Allendorf, C (52.3 FG%).

Starters returning (3): Doug Davis, G, 6-3/Sr. (9.8 ppg); Julius Johnson, G, 6-5/So. (6.6 ppg); Alex Shorts, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (15.7 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 40 3%).

Other returnees: Larry Drake, F, 6-5/Jr.; Brian Edwards, F/C, 6-7/Sr.; Ben Helmers, G, 6-1/Sr.; Matt Jameson, G, 6-1/Jr.; Bryan Reed, F, 6-6/Jr.; Eugene Seals, F, 6-6/So.; Doug Williams, G/F, 6-4/Jr.

Top newcomers: Danny Horace, F, 6-5/Fr.; Chester Mason, G, 6-2/So. (Prop 48); Tim Schenke, F, 6-7/Fr.; Nate VanderSluis, C, 6-11/Fr.

Outlook: If Coles blends what might be the most talented group of young players in the MAC with the team's few experienced players, the RedHawks could be a major surprise. Miami has outstanding talent, but inexperience resulted in a lack of mental toughness last season. Davis, Drake and Johnson all must raise their level of play. Mason, who sat out last season as a partial qualifier, is loaded with talent. The top returnee is Shorts, who led Miami in scoring and was second in rebounding last season.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Oxford, Ohio. **Home court:** Millett Hall (9,200). **Website:** www.muredhawks.com

5. Kent State

National Rank: 165

Coach: Stan Heath (1st. year).

Starters lost (1): Kyrem Massey, F (12.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg).

Others lost: Rashaun Warren, C (6.1 ppg).

Starters returning (4): Trevor Huffman, G, 6-1/Sr. (16.8 ppg, 4.5 apg); Andrew Mitchell, G, 5-11/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 40.4 3%); Mike Perry, C, 6-9/Sr. (5.3 ppg); Demetric Shaw, G, 6-3/Sr. (10 ppg, 6.9 rpg).

Other returnees: Bryan Bedford, F, 6-4/So.; Eric Haut, G, 6-0/So.; John Edwards, C, 7-0/So.; Eric

Thomas, F, 6-4/Sr.; Anthony Wilkins, G, 6-7/Jr. (RS).
Top newcomers: Nate Gerwig, C, 6-9/Fr.; Jonathan Merritt, F, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: Kent State is in danger of a dip this season after ruling the MAC for three years. The Golden Flashes suffered important player losses and changed coaches. The good news is the return of the backcourt, which was the strength of the team last season when it won the MAC tournament and beat Indiana in the NCAA first round. Huffman has point guard skills and a scoring mentality, and he's an outstanding defender. Mitchell likes to drive the ball and is a pesky defender. Shaw is an outstanding defensive player and a great rebounder.
Last league title: 2001 (MAC East).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.
Site: Kent, Ohio. **Home court:** M.A.C. Center (6,327). **Website:** www.kent.edu/athletics

6. Akron

National Rank: 186

Coach: Dan Hipsher (75-87, 6 years; 201-132 overall, 12 years).

Starters lost (2): Nate Schindewolf, G/F (14.6 ppg, 44.1 3%); Bruce Weinkein, C (6.6 ppg).

Others lost: Klaas Zollner, F/C; David Kalb, G.

Starters returning (3): Rashon Brown, G, 6-1/Sr. (12.5 ppg); Emmanuel Smith, G, 6-3/Jr. (10.7 ppg, 42 3%); Byron Thompson, F, 6-6/So. (4.6 ppg).

Other returnees: David Falknor, F, 6-7/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 54 3%); Andy Hipsher, F, 6-8/Jr. (14.6 ppg, 44.1 3%);

Larry Penn, F, 6-7/So.; Matt Seibert, C, 7-1/So.; Andre Sims, G, 6-0/So. (7.9 ppg, 45.8 3%).

Top newcomers: Bryan Hipsher, G, 6-4/Fr.; Courtney Jones, G, 6-3/So. (Prop 48); Nick Meyers, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Darryl Peterson, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Rob Preston, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Brian Wood, G, 6-4/Fr.

Outlook: Akron's biggest need is the return of a healthy Andy Hipsher, who was expected to be the Zips' top player last season. He redshirted last year after developing back problems, and he had off-season back surgery. Akron led the nation in 3-point shooting, and that again will be a key component of its offense. Falknor was the top 3-point shooter in the MAC last season, and the Zips hope he can make a healthy return after off-season toe surgery. Wood, the all-time leading scorer in Colorado high school history, will be asked to provide some punch from the perimeter. Big men Seibert, Meyers and Preston must provide balance with inside scoring and rebounding.

Last league title: 1998 (MAC East).

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.

Site: Akron, Ohio. **Home court:** James A. Rhodes Arena (5,942). **Website:** www.goazips.com

7. Buffalo

National Rank: 276

Coach: Reggie Witherspoon (7-44, 2 years).

Starters lost (2): Jason Robinson, G (14.2 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 40.1 3%); Damien Foster, G (10.9 ppg).

Others lost: O'Tea Alston, F, (47.8 FG%).

Starters returning (3): Robert Brown, F, 6-4/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 49.7 FG%), Louis Campbell, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 4.3 apg, 1.9 spg), Davis Lawrence, G, 5-10/Sr. (4.3 ppg, 41.4 3%, 78.1 FT%, 1.2 spg).

Other returnees: Gabe Cagwin, G, 5-10/Sr.; Clement Smith, F, 6-8/Sr. (4.4 rpg); Kevin Swoffer, C, 6-10/Sr.; Jason Walcott, F, 6-5/So.

Top newcomers: Turner Battle, G, 6-3/Fr.; Jason Bird, G, 6-3/Fr.; Mark Bortz, C, 6-9/Fr.; Daniel Gilbert, G, 6-5/Fr.; Joe Veal, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Darcel Williams, F, 6-5/Sr. (transfer/Eastern Kentucky).

Outlook: Buffalo continues to try to refine its style of play, and it should come closer to its goal this season than it did the past two years under Witherspoon. The coach wants to develop enough depth to allow his team to be a high-pressure defensive unit. He would like the Bulls to turn the pressure into instant and easy offense. When Buffalo played well a year ago, it was effective with a halfcourt trap. The problem was a lack of personnel. That shouldn't be the case this year. The Bulls have three starters and five of their top eight scorers back. Brown became the Bulls' leading scorer last year as a junior college transfer, and Campbell is one of the MAC's most athletic talents.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Buffalo, N.Y. **Home court:** Alumni Arena (8,500). **Website:** www.ubathletics.buffalo.edu

Schedules

Akron

N17 at Iona
 N23-26 Hawaii Pac. Cl.
 N30-D1 Boilerm'kr Inv.
 D5 West. Kentucky
 D8 at Buffalo
 D15 at Cleveland St.
 D22 Mount Union
 D29 Cincinnati
 J2 Niagara
 J5 at Ohio
 J8 Bowling Green
 J12 at Miami
 J16 Kent
 J21 E. Michigan
 J25 at Ball St.
 J26 C. Michigan
 J29 at Marshall
 F2 Buffalo
 F6 at Toledo
 F9 Ohio
 F12 W. Michigan
 F16 at E. Michigan
 F19 N. Illinois
 F23 at Bowling Green
 F25 at Kent
 M2 Marshall

Ball State

N19-21 Maui Invit.
 N30-D1 First Merch. Cl.
 D8 at Indiana
 D15 at IUPUI
 D19 Butler
 D22 at Indiana State
 J2 at Kent
 J5 at E. Michigan
 J9 Central Michigan
 J12 at Toledo
 J16 at Northern Illinois
 J19 Bowling Green
 J21 IUPUI-Fort Wayne
 J23 Akron
 J26 W. Michigan
 J28 at Ohio

J30 Akron
 F2 E. Michigan
 F5 at Marshall
 F9 at Miami
 F13 Buffalo
 F16 Toledo
 F20 at W. Michigan
 F23 Miami
 F27 N. Illinois
 M2 at C. Michigan

Bowling Green

N15-18 Top of World Cl.
 N28 Michigan
 D1 Marist
 D5 at Duquesne
 D8 UNC Wilmington
 D15 at Evansville
 D22 Detroit
 D29 at Indiana State
 J2 at C. Michigan
 J5 N. Illinois
 J8 at Akron
 J12 at Buffalo
 J16 Toledo
 J19 at Ball State
 J26 Kent
 J30 at W. Michigan
 F2 Miami
 F6 at Ohio
 F9 at Kent
 F11 Marshall
 F13 E. Michigan
 F18 at Toledo
 F20 at Miami
 F23 Akron
 F27 Buffalo
 M9 Ohio

Buffalo

N19 at Niagara
 N21 at Chicago State
 N24 Canisius
 N29 at Rhode Island
 D1 New Hampshire
 D5 at Cornell
 D8 Akron

D29 at Syracuse
 J2 at E. Michigan
 J7 at Kent
 J9 N. Illinois
 J12 Bowling Green
 J15 Ohio
 J19 at Marshall
 J23 Kent
 J26 Northwestern
 J30 at N. Illinois
 F2 at Akron
 F6 Miami
 F9 W. Michigan
 F13 at Ball State
 F16 C. Michigan
 F20 at Toledo
 F23 Marshall
 F25 at Miami
 F27 at Bowling Green

Cent. Michigan

N18 Spring Arbor
 N21 at Dayton
 N24 Georgia State
 N28 at Oklahoma
 D2 Loyola-Chicago
 D5 at George Mason
 D19 Detroit
 D22 at Northern Iowa
 J2 Bowling Green
 J5 Miami
 J9 at Ball State
 J12 at W. Michigan
 J16 Marshall
 J19 at E. Michigan
 J23 Toledo
 J26 at Akron
 J30 at Ohio
 F2 N. Illinois
 F4 W. Michigan
 F6 Kent
 F13 at Toledo
 F16 at Buffalo
 F19 E. Michigan
 F23 at N. Illinois
 F27 at Marshall
 M2 Ball State

East. Michigan

N17-20 Paradise Jam
 N26 Md.-East Shore
 D1 Tennessee Tech
 D3 Detroit
 D8 Delaware State
 D11 at Wis.-Green Bay
 D19 Concordia
 D22 at Michigan
 D29 West. Carolina
 J2 Buffalo
 J5 Ball State
 J9 Toledo
 J12 at Marshall
 J15 at Miami
 J19 C. Michigan
 J21 at Akron
 J22 at N. Illinois
 J26 Ohio
 J29 Kent
 F2 at Ball State
 F6 at W. Michigan
 F9 N. Illinois
 F13 at Bowling Green
 F16 Akron
 F19 at C. Michigan
 F26 W. Michigan
 M2 at Toledo

Kent State

N19 Mercyhurst
 N23-25 RMC Shootout
 N28 Kentucky*
 D1 Chattanooga
 D15 at Youngstown St.
 D20 at Xavier
 D22 at Illinois State
 D29 Cleveland State
 D31 St. Bonaventure
 J2 Ball State
 J5 at Marshall
 J7 Buffalo
 J12 Ohio
 J16 at Akron
 J19 W. Michigan
 J23 at Buffalo
 J26 at Bowling Green

J29 at E. Michigan
 F2 Toledo
 F6 at C. Michigan
 F9 Bowling Green
 F13 at N. Illinois
 F16 Miami
 F19 Marshall
 F23 at Ohio
 F25 Akron
 M2 at Miami
 *at Cincinnati

Marshall

N15-16 NABC Classic
 N22-24 Fresno St. Cl.
 D3 at Winthrop
 D6 at Radford
 D8 N. Illinois
 D15 Auburn*
 D22 at W. Michigan
 29 Massachusetts
 J5 Kent
 J9 at Miami
 J12 E. Michigan
 J16 at C. Michigan
 J19 Buffalo
 J23 West Virginia**
 J26 at Toledo
 D28 at Marshall
 D15 at Ill.-Chicago
 D22 at Drake
 D29 Eastern Illinois
 J2 Ohio
 J5 at Bowling Green
 J9 at Buffalo
 J12 at Lipscomb
 J16 Ball State
 J19 at Toledo
 J22 E. Michigan
 J26 Miami
 J30 Buffalo
 F2 at C. Michigan
 F9 at E. Michigan
 F11 Toledo
 F13 Kent
 F16 W. Michigan
 F19 at Akron

Miami

N17 at UNC Wilmington
 N19 George Mason
 N28 Xavier
 D1 Wright State
 D3 at Evansville

D8 Notre Dame
 D16 at USC
 D19-22 Rainbow Cl.
 D29 at Dayton
 J2 at W. Michigan
 J5 at C. Michigan
 J9 Marshall
 J12 Akron
 J16 E. Michigan
 J19 at Ohio
 J26 at Northern Illinois
 J29 Toledo
 F2 at Bowling Green
 F4 Ohio
 F6 at Buffalo
 F9 Ball State
 F13 at Marshall
 F16 at Kent
 F20 Bowling Green
 F23 at Ball State
 F25 Buffalo
 M2 Kent

Northern Illinois

N24 at Loyola (Ill.)
 N27 Valparaiso
 N30-D1 Coca Cola Cl.
 D4 South Florida
 D8 at Marshall
 D15 at Ill.-Chicago
 D22 at Drake
 D29 Eastern Illinois
 J2 Ohio
 J5 at Bowling Green
 J9 at Buffalo
 J12 at Lipscomb
 J16 Ball State
 J19 at Toledo
 J22 E. Michigan
 J26 Miami
 J30 Buffalo
 F2 at C. Michigan
 F9 at E. Michigan
 F11 Toledo
 F13 Kent
 F16 W. Michigan
 F19 at Akron

F23 C. Michigan
 F27 at Ball State
 M2 at W. Michigan

Ohio

N26 at Navy
 N29 Duquesne
 D5 at DePaul
 D8 Wisconsin
 D12 at St. Bonaventure
 D15 Oakland
 D27-28 Fla. Inter. Tourn.
 J2 at N. Illinois
 J5 Akron
 J9 W. Michigan
 J12 at Kent
 J15 at Buffalo
 J19 Miami
 J22 at West. Mich.
 J26 at E. Michigan
 J28 Ball State
 J30 C. Michigan
 F2 Marshall
 F4 at Miami
 F6 Bowling Green
 F9 at Akron
 F16 at Marshall
 F20 at North Carolina
 F23 Kent
 F26 Toledo
 M3 at Bowling Green

Toledo

N18 at Dayton
 N21 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
 N24 at George Mason
 D1 St. Bonaventure
 D4 at Siena
 D8 Youngstown
 D10 at Cincinnati
 D15 at Detroit
 D27 at Oakland
 J5 at W. Michigan
 J9 at E. Michigan
 J12 Ball State
 J16 at Bowling Green
 J19 N. Illinois

J23 at C. Michigan
 J26 Marshall
 J29 at Miami
 J2 at Kent
 F6 Akron
 F11 at N. Illinois
 F13 C. Michigan
 F16 at Ball State
 F18 Bowling Green
 F20 Buffalo
 F23 W. Michigan
 F26 at Ohio
 M2 E. Michigan

West. Michigan

N15 Long Beach State*
 N16 Oregon*
 N17 Alabama State*
 N21 Wis.-Milwaukee
 N23 Michigan
 N27 Morgan State
 D1 at Detroit
 D12 at Virginia Tech
 D15 at Wisconsin-Milw.
 D22 Marshall
 D29 at Oakland
 J2 Miami
 J5 Toledo
 J9 at Ohio
 J12 C. Michigan
 J15 IUPUI
 J19 at Kent
 J22 Ohio
 J26 at Ball State
 J30 Bowling Green
 F4 at C. Michigan
 F6 E. Michigan
 F9 at Buffalo
 F12 at Akron
 F16 at N. Illinois
 F20 Ball State
 F23 at Toledo
 F26 at E. Michigan
 M2 N. Illinois
 *at Eugene, Ore.

MISSOURI VALLEY

1. Illinois State

National Rank: 54

Coach: Tom Richardson (31-29, 2 years).

Starters lost (1): Richard Beyers, C (5.6 ppg, 47.8 FG%).

Others lost: Jason Hammock, F; Cedric Knight, F (5.1 ppg, 50.9 FG%).

Starters returning (4): Tarise Bryson, G, 6-1/Sr. (22.8 ppg, 1.9 spg, 46.5 FG%, 82.1 FT%); Shedrick Ford, F, 6-4/Sr. (12.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 48.2 FG%, 40.4 3%); Shawn Jeppson, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 1.5 spg, 54.7 FG%, 84.5 FT%, 46.5 3%); Randy Rice, G, 6-0/Sr. (4.4 apg, 1.5 spg).

Other returnees: Bret Gillan, F, 6-4/Jr.; Chad Mazawoski, F, 6-6/Sr.; Andy Strandmark, C, 6-11/Jr.; Dirk Williams, F, 6-8/So. (48.8 FG%, 37.5 3%).

Top newcomers: Gregg Alexander, G, 6-4/Fr.; Baboucarr Bojang, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Vince Greene, G, 5-10/So. (Prop 48); Trey Guidry, G, 6-2/So. (transfer/NC State); Dan Hubbard, G, 6-3/Fr.; Casey Reid, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Kevin Troc, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: The Redbirds put together the nation's fourth-best turnaround last season, going from 10-20 in Richardson's first year to 21-9 (12-6, MVC) last season. The challenge facing them this season is to continue moving up the ladder. Illinois State should make a run at the Valley championship, thanks mainly to the return of league scoring champ Bryson, a former nonqualifier who regained a season of eligibility by completing his degree in August. In a league loaded with great guards last season, Bryson might have been the best. Three other starters—Jeppson, Rice and Ford—are back. Last season, Rice brought stability to a team that often self-destructed the previous year. Ford must continue to play bigger than his size. He is the Redbirds' only consistent inside threat. Still, in a league notoriously shy of dominant inside players, the presence of Bryson, Jeppson and Rice on the perimeter might be enough to shoot the Redbirds to a title.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Normal, Ill. **Home court:** Redbird Arena (10,200). **Website:** www.redbirds.org

2. Creighton

National Rank: 63

Coach: Dana Altman (123-86, 7 years; 206-153 overall, 12 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (3): Alan Huss, C; Ryan Sears, G (11 ppg, 4.3 apg, 2.3 spg, 78.3 FT%); Ben Walker, G (12.2 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 1.1 spg).

Others lost: Livan Pyfrom, C (6.1 ppg, 1.6 bpg, 66.7 FG%).

Starters returning (2): Kyle Korver, F, 6-7/Jr. (14.6 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.8 spg, 47 FG%, 86.7 FT%, 45.2 3%); Terrell Taylor, G, 6-3/Jr. (10.4 ppg, 1.3 spg).

Other returnees: Ismael Caro, G, 5-11/So.

(37.5 3%); Austin Collier, F, 6-7/Jr. (RS); Joe Dabbert, C, 6-10/So. (4.1 ppg, 47.5 FG%); Mike Grimes, F, 6-6/So.; Michael Lindeman, F, 6-6/So.

Top newcomers: DeAnthony Bowden, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Brody Deren, F, 6-8/So. (transfer/Northwestern); T.J. Freeman, G, 6-3/Fr.; Larry House, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Tyler McKinney, G, 6-2/Fr.; Jimmy Motz, F, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: The Bluejays celebrated their first league championship in a decade last February, but they'll face a difficult title defense without Sears and Walker. Their departures shift Creighton's strength to the frontcourt, where Korver, the best shooting big man in the league, is a player of the year candidate and Taylor will be asked to provide the athleticism that Walker brought to the court. Dabbert, who shared time with Huss and Pyfrom last season, must be ready for full-time duty in the post, although Deren and Collier will be there to help. Caro figures to be the leading candidate to take over the point from Sears, although McKinney will get a look. The Bluejays might lack the depth that allowed them to dominate in the stretch run last season, when they won 10 straight games, but don't bet against them as they bid to become the first team in school history to record four straight 20-win seasons.

Last league title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Omaha, Neb. **Home court:** Omaha Civic Auditorium (9,377).

Website: www.gocreighton.com

3. Indiana State

National Rank: 105

Coach: Royce Waltman (75-45, 4 years; 264-131 overall, 14 years; 5-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Matt Renn, F (15.8 ppg, 7.5 rpg; 1.8 spg, 52.6 FG%, 45.1 3%); Michael Menser, G (13.4 ppg, 5.4 apg, 38.5 3%, 83.2 FT%).

Others lost: Brian Giesen, F (4 ppg).

Starters returning (3): Kelyn Block, G, 6-2/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 52.6 FG%); Marcus Howard, G, 6-3/So. (4.7 ppg, 36.3 3%); Djibril Kante, C, 6-7/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 56.1 FG%).

Other returnees: Terence Avery, C, 6-9/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Matt Berry, G, 6-5/So.; Matt Broermann, G, 6-5/Jr.; Michael Kernan, C, 6-11/So. (66.7 FG%); Barry Welsh, G, 6-0/So. (78.6 FT%); Andy Williamson, F, 6-5/Jr.

Top newcomers: Levi Adams, C, 6-9/So. (transfer/Morehead State); Jerod Adler, C, 6-9/Fr.; Darron Evans, F, 6-6/Fr.; Lamar Grimes, G, 5-11/Fr.; Batiste Haywood, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Jake Sams, F, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: For the first time in school history, the Sycamores will try to reach the NCAA Tournament in three consecutive seasons. They'll have to do it without Menser, who led the nation in assists-to-turnovers ratio last season, and Renn, who led the Sycamores in points and assists. Their departures put the spotlight on Block, a league player of the

Steve Pivovar, Omaha World-Herald

Predictions

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Illinois State* | 7. Evansville |
| 2. Creighton | 8. Drake |
| 3. Indiana State | 9. Wichita State |
| 4. Southern Illinois | 10. Northern Iowa |
| 5. SW Missouri St. | |
| 6. Bradley | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tarise Bryson, Illinois State	6-1	175	Sr.
G	Kelyn Block, Indiana State	6-2	200	Sr.
G	Luke McDonald, Drake	6-5	199	So.
F	Kyle Korver, Creighton	6-7	205	Jr.
F	Mike Wallace, SW Missouri St.	6-5	236	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	David Newman, Drake	6-0	191	Jr.
G	Kent Williams, Southern Illinois	6-2	180	Jr.
G	Shawn Jeppson, Illinois State	6-2	170	Sr.
F	Adam Seitz, Evansville	6-3	185	Sr.
F	Jermaine Dearman, So. Illinois	6-8	220	Jr.

Player of the Year

Tarise Bryson, Illinois State

Newcomer of the Year

David Newman, Drake

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Shawn Jeppson, Illinois State

Best rebounder: Mike Wallace, Southwest Missouri State

Best playmaker: Randy Rice, Illinois State

Best defender: Andy Woodley, Northern Iowa

Best dunker: Djibril Kante, Indiana State

Most versatile: Shawn Jeppson, Illinois State

Most flamboyant: Tarise Bryson, Illinois State

Best NBA prospect: Tarise Bryson, Illinois State

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Creighton*	14	4	24	8
Illinois State+	12	6	21	9
Bradley++	12	6	19	12
Indiana State**	10	8	22	12
Southern Illinois	10	8	16	14
Evansville	9	9	14	16
Southwest Missouri	8	10	13	16
Drake	8	10	12	16
Wichita State	4	14	9	19
Northern Iowa	3	15	7	24

*Lost to Iowa, 69-56, in NCAA East first round.

**Lost to Gonzaga, 85-68, in NCAA South second round.

+Lost to Purdue, 90-79, in NIT first round.

++Lost to Detroit, 68-49, in NIT first round.

year candidate. Also back are starters Kante and Howard, while sixth man Avery leads a group of six other lettermen from last season's 22-12 team. Under Waltman's direction, Indiana State went from a program going nowhere to one that won the regular-season title in 1999-2000 and the tournament title last season. Waltman's ability to develop young players in a hurry to complement Block could be the key to whether the Sycamores are celebrating at the end of this season.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Terre Haute, Ind. **Home court:** Hulman Center (10,200).

Website: web.indstate.edu/athletics

4. Southern Illinois

National Rank: 136

Coach: Bruce Weber (51-39, 3 years).

Starters lost (2): Josh Cross, G (10.6 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 53.6 FG%); Abel Schrader, G/F (9.2 rpg).

Others lost: Brandon Mells, G (4.2 ppg).

Starters returning (3): Marcus Belcher, G, 6-0/Sr. (4.4 ppg); Kent Williams, G, 6-2/Jr. (17.6 ppg, 83.3 FT%); Sylvester Willis, F/C, 6-6/So.

Other returnees: Tyrese Buie, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 45.2 FG%, 85.1 FT%); David Carney, G, 6-0/Jr.; Jermaine Dearman, F, 6-8/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 47.5 FG%); Brad Korn, F, 6-9/So.; Jason Ward, F, 6-6/Sr.; Josh Warren, F/C, 6-8/So.

Top newcomers: Darren Brooks, G, 6-6/Fr.; Stetson Hairston, G, 6-3/Fr.; Stefan Jabkiewicz, C, 6-10/Fr.; David McGlowin, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); Rolan Roberts, C, 6-6, Sr. (transfer/Virginia Tech).

Outlook: The good news for Salukis fans is that SIU has three starters and several other lettermen back. The bad news is that those players were part of a team plagued by inconsistency last season. Weber is looking for someone to provide stability to a group that is not without talent. Leading the pack is Williams, who has started every game the past two seasons. The other starters back are Dearman, whose hot-and-cold play cost him court time last season, underrated guard Belcher and Willis. Roberts, whom Weber calls the strongest player on the team, could be the key to getting the Salukis back on track. If Roberts and newcomers Hairston, Jabkiewicz and McGlowin can produce, SIU has a chance to make a run for the title.

Last league title: 1994 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Carbondale, Ill. **Home court:** SIU Arena (10,000). **Website:** www.siusalukis.com

5. Southwest Missouri State

National Rank: 138

Coach: Barry Hinson (36-27, 2 years; 72-50, 4 years overall).

Starters lost (1): Matt Rueter, C (6.2 ppg, 46.8 FG%).

Others lost: Josh Hume, G (76.0 FT%).

Starters returning (4): Scott Brakebill, F, 6-8/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 37.2 3%, 81 FT%); Charles Gaines, F, 6-7, Jr. (8.3 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 46.8 FG%); Daniel Novak, G/F, 6-7/Sr. (8.0 ppg, 43.6 3%); Robert Yanders, G, 5-11/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 85.5 FT%).

Other returnees: Luke Dobbins, G, 6-1/So.

(4.0 rpg, 75.0 FT%); Matt Engstrom, C, 6-9/So.

(RS); Trevor Fisher, G, 6-1/Fr. (RS); Monwell Randle, F/C, 6-8/So. (52.3 FG%); Travis Walk, G, 6-6/Jr.; Mike Wallace, C, 6-5/Sr. (12.4 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 58.3 FG%); Donnie Williams, G, 6-2/So. (44.4 3%).

Top newcomers: Jason Gilbert, G, 5-11/Jr. (transfer/Arkansas); Tamarr Maclin, F/C, 6-7/Fr.; Terrance McGee, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Bears return 10 lettermen, and though that's no guarantee for success, Hinson says, it sure beats a year ago, when Brakebill was the team's only returning starter. Brakebill, who also is the only holdover from SMS' Sweet 16 team of 1998-99, is one of four seniors who are being counted on for big contributions. The other three are Wallace, who prefers coming off the bench rather than starting, and backcourt starters Yanders and Novak. Yanders was the only player to start every game last season, but he needs to develop more consistency at the point. Novak will be pressed at off-guard by Gilbert, whose shooting made a strong impression in practice last winter. Gaines, Walk, Dobbins and Williams also must produce at a higher level than they did last season for the Bears to get things turned around.

Last league title: 1990 (Mid-Continent).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Springfield, Mo. **Home court:** Hammons Student Center (8,846).

Website: www.sports.smsu.edu

6. Bradley

National Rank: 148

Coach: Jim Molinari (165-132, 10 years; 207-149 overall, 12 years, 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (3): Eddie Cage, F (8.7 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 48.5 FG%); Jeffrey Rabey, C (6.9 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 50.0 FG%); Jerome Robinson, G (17.1 ppg, 43.5 3%, 79.2 FT%, 2.4 apg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (2): Phillip Gilbert, G, 6-3/So. (11.7 ppg, 37.7 3%, 76.7 FT%); James Gillingham, G, 6-4/So. (6.2 ppg, 79 FT%).

Other returnees: Andre Corbitt, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (7.5 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 45.7 FG%, 77.1 FT%); Jason Faulknor, F, 6-7/So.; Reggie Hall, F, 6-6/Sr.; Brian Hogue, G, 6-0/Sr.; Marcello Robinson, G, 5-10/So. (4.3 ppg).

Top newcomers: Danny Granger, F, 6-8/Fr.; Brandon Heemskerck, C, 7-0/Fr.; Michael Stewart, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Antoine Tisby, F, 6-8/Fr.; Joah Tucker, F, 6-5/Fr.

Outlook: Replacing Jerome Robinson and rebuilding the front line will be Molinari's priorities in his 11th season at Bradley. Robinson emerged as one of the league's top offensive threats last season and was named defensive player of the year. Cage and Rabey also are gone from the starting lineup, with their replacements likely to come from a group of players that includes Heemskerck, Granger, Stewart and Tisby. Gilbert showed promise during a solid freshman season. Gillingham and Marcello Robinson split time at point guard last season. The Braves hope Corbitt continues to improve—he raised his scoring average from 2.3 points per game in 1999-2000 to 7.5 last year—to help replace Jerome Robinson's output.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Peoria, Ill. **Home court:** Carver Arena (11,300). **Website:** www.bubraves.com

7. Evansville

National Rank: 162

Coach: Jim Crews (287-188, 16 years, 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (3): Craig Snow, F (14.6 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 47.4 FG%, 39.9 3%); Kyle Runyan, G (8.9 ppg, 39.8 3%); Jeremy Stanton, G (5.1 ppg, 7 apg, 46.1 FG%).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (2): Dan Lytle, C, 6-10/So. (10.6 ppg, 4 rpg, 49.6 FG%); Adam Seitz, F, 6-3/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 47.9 FG%, 41 3%, 87 FT%).

Other returnees: Mark Allaria, G, 6-2/Sr. (2.5 apg, 45.6 FG%); Clint Cuffie, G, 6-6/So. (6.9 ppg, 47.5 FG%, 41.8 3%, 78.8 FT%); Chuck Hedde, C, 6-8/Sr. (8 ppg, 64.3 FG%); Faruk Mujezinovic, C, 6-9/So. (RS).

Top newcomers: Tobias Brinkley, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Larry Ferguson, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Ian Hanavan, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Ill.-Chicago); Eric Ottens, G/F, 6-7/Fr.; Lucious Wagner, G, 6-5/Fr. (RS); Jordan Watson, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: The Aces were 9-9 in Valley competition last season, extending their run of .500 or better league seasons to 15, but they dipped to 14-16 overall. Some of the problems were tied to senior slumps experienced by Snow and Stanton. This season, Evansville will look to Seitz to be its go-to guy. He'll get assistance from Lytle and Cuffie, both members of the Valley's all-freshman team, and solid role-playing big man Hedde, who received a spot on the league's all-bench team. Hanavan, who set a freshman rebounding record at Illinois-Chicago, could be vital in helping the Aces trim the advantage foes have had on the boards in recent seasons.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Evansville, Ind. **Home court:** Roberts Stadium (12,144). **Website:** www.gopurpleaces.com

8. Drake

National Rank: 182

Coach: Kurt Kanaskie (38-101, 5 years; 245-208, 16 years).

Starters lost (2): Joey Gaw, F/C (8.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 46.4 FG%, 78.6 FT%); Aaron Thomas, G (5.5 ppg, 88.9 FT%).

Others lost: Billy Cundiff, G; Lamont Evans, G (8.5 ppg, 7.1 apg); Alberto Jempierre, F (5.9 ppg, 60 FG%); Justin Ohl, F; Dontaie Smith, G (14.4 ppg, 49.6 FG%, 46.6 3%); Jason Vanderbrake, G.

Starters returning (3): Greg Danielson, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (9.3 ppg, 6.2 rpg); Luke McDonald, G, 6-5/So. (14.7 ppg, 48.6 FG%, 46 3%, 85.1 FT%); Andry Sola, G/F, 6-7/Jr. (11.8 ppg, 6 rpg, 50.5 FG%, 41.6 3%, 78.6 FT%).

Other returnees: Aaron Knight, G, 6-4/Sr. (4.8 ppg, 41.4 3%, 90 FT%); Mike O'Neill, C, 6-10/Sr.

Top newcomers: Adam Fenton, G, 6-0/Fr.; Brian

Hogan, G, 6-2/Fr.; Quantel Murphy, F, 6-5/Fr.; David Newman, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/Northwestern); Lonnie Randolph, G, 6-1/Fr.; Eric Regan, F, 6-6/Fr.; J.J. Sola, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Armon Tillman, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); T.J. Welton, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Jake Wiltrout, G, 5-11/Fr.

Outlook: The best news Kanaskie received in the offseason was that McDonald, the league's freshman of the year last season, was staying put after exploring possible transfer options. Andry Sola joins McDonald in powering Drake's outside attack, which produced a school-record 201 3-point baskets last season, and Danielson gives the Bulldogs some bulk in the middle. The Bulldogs must get immediate contributions from Newman, a two-year starter at Northwestern last season who could provide the leadership that could help Drake win the close ones—eight of the Bulldogs' 16 losses were by an average of 3.8 points. If Newman and the other newcomers perform up to expectations, Drake appears capable of taking Kanaskie's rebuilding program to the next step.

Last league title: 1971.

Last NCAA appearance: 1971.

Site: Des Moines, Iowa. **Home court:** Drake Knapp Center (7,002).

Website: www.drakebulldogs.org

9. Wichita State

National Rank: 204

Coach: Mark Turgeon (9-19, 1 year).

Starters lost (2): Michael Phillips, G (4.3 ppg, 77.1 FT%); O.J. Robinson, F (8.9 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 50.6 FG%).

Others lost: Willie Davis, F (4 ppg); Josh Drumgole, G (45.5 FG%); Justin White, F.

Starters returning (3): Terrell Benton, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 35.7 3%, 77.4 FT%); Troy Mack, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 53.5 FG%); C.C. McFall, G, 6-4/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 91 FT%).

Other returnees: Matt Clark, G, 6-0/Sr.

(88.9 FT%); Adam Grundvig, F, 6-8/Sr. (7.1 ppg, 61.1 FG%, 76.3 FT%); Craig Steven, G, 6-2/Jr.; Duke Tshomba, F, 6-5/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 39.8 3%);

Top newcomers: Brett Begnoche, G, 6-4/Fr.; Randy Burns, G, 5-11/Fr.; Jamar Howard, F, 6-5, Fr.; Rob Kampman, F, 6-7/Fr.; Paul Miller, C, 6-10/Fr.; Dion Sherrell, G, 6-3/Fr.; Jamie Sowers, F, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: The Shockers are spending \$25 million to renovate Levitt Arena, the home of a basketball program that has fallen into disrepair. Nine of the past 12 Shockers teams have finished with at least 17 losses, including last season's club that lost 11 straight in one stretch. But this season, McFall, Grundvig, Mack and Benton figure to give the Shockers experience to go along with the promise supplied by a freshman class that some recruiting experts rate as one of the better groups in the Valley. Shockers fans had better hope there is an Xavier McDaniel among newcomers Sherrell, Sowers, Burns, Howard, Kampman and Miller, or Turgeon's second year could turn out looking much like his first—if not worse.

Last league title: 1983.

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Wichita, Kan. **Home court:** Levitt Arena (10,529). **Website:** goshockers.com

10. Northern Iowa

National Rank: 253

Coach: Greg McDermott (1st year; 131-64 overall, 7 years).

Starters lost (1): Joe Breakenridge, F (13.3 ppg, 10.5 rpg, 58.1 FG%).

Others lost: Corey Hill, G (4.8 ppg); Damond Gregory, C (4.2 ppg, 45 FG%); Martin Coon, G (8 ppg, 36.5 3%); Adam Wilde, F; Andre Clarke, G (6.6 ppg); Booker Warren, G (8.8 ppg).

Starters returning (4): Aaron Middendorf, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.1 spg); Robbie Sieverding, G, 5-11/Sr. (RS); Erik Smith, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 1 spg); Andy Woodley, G, 5-10/Sr. (4.4 ppg, 3 spg, 39.1 3%, 78.3 FT%).

Other returnees: Blake Anderson, F, 6-7/So.; Trey Austin, F, 6-7/Sr. (52 FG%); Chris Foster, G, 5-9/Fr.; William Hagans, G, 6-3/Jr.; Octav Morariu, C, 6-11/Sr.; Ryan Paulsen, G, 6-0/Jr.; Josh Wright, G, 6-0/Jr.

Top newcomers: Matt Bennett, F, 6-6/Fr.; David Gruber, F/C, 6-7/So. (JC); Adam Jacobson, F, 6-6/Fr.; Michael Miller, F, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: Former Panther McDermott inherits a team that never recovered from the loss of Sieverding to a knee injury in last season's opener. The good news for McDermott is he will get the chance to build around a healthy Sieverding. Five other seniors, including Middendorf, Smith and the feisty Woodley, join him. The middle is open with the graduation of Breakenridge, who led the league in rebounding the past three seasons. McDermott is hoping Morariu, who spent the summer playing for the Romanian national team, can become a force in a league short on big men. **Last league title:** 1991 (Mid-Continent). **Last NCAA appearance:** 1990. **Site:** Cedar Falls, Iowa. **Home court:** UNI Dome (10,000). **Website:** www.unipanthers.com

Schedules

Bradley

N19 La.-Lafayette
N24 at W. Illinois
N27 at UAB
D1 USC
D8 Northern Iowa
D11 at La.-Lafayette
D21 Hampton
D29-30 Dr Pepper Cl.
J2 at Wichita State
J5 Drake
J10 at SW Mo. St.
J13 at Evansville
J16 Southern Illinois
J19 at Creighton
J23 Illinois State
J27 Wichita State
J31 Indiana State
F2 at Northern Iowa
F5 at Illinois State
F9 Evansville
F13 at Indiana State
F16 at Drake
F20 SW Missouri St.
F25 at S. Illinois

Creighton

N18 N.C. A&T
N27 W. Kentucky
N29 Grambling State
D4 at TCU
D8 at BYU
D12 Nebraska
D16 Indiana State
D19 at W. Kentucky

D22 Xavier
D29 Miss. Valley St.
J2 at Illinois State
J5 at Northern Iowa
J9 Evansville
J13 at SW Mo. St.
J16 Illinois State
J19 Bradley
J22 at Wichita State
J26 at Evansville
J30 SW Missouri St.
F3 Southern Illinois
F6 at Indiana State
F9 Northern Iowa
F13 at Drake
F17 Wichita State
F20 at S. Illinois
F23 at Bradley
F25 Drake

Drake

N16-18 Hawaii Nike Cl.
N23 at Oral Roberts
N27 at W. Illinois
D6 Ark.-Pine Bluff
D9 Indiana State
D12 at Iowa
D15 Iowa State
D22 Northern Illinois
D30 Denver
D32 at Northern Iowa
J5 at Bradley
J10 Illinois State
J12 at Wichita State
J16 at Evansville
J20 Northern Iowa

J24 Southern Illinois
J26 at Illinois State
J30 Wichita State
F2 Evansville
F6 at SW Mo. St.
F9 at S. Illinois
F13 Creighton
F16 Bradley
F19 at Indiana State
F23 SW Missouri St.
F25 at Creighton
Evansville
N17 Youngstown St.
N20 at W. Kentucky
N24 at Tennessee St.
N27 at Ill.-Chicago
D3 Miami (Ohio)
D5 Eastern Illinois
D8 at Butler
D15 Bowling Green
D22 Wis.-Green Bay
D30 SW Missouri St.
J2 Southern Illinois
J5 at Indiana State
J9 at Creighton
J13 Bradley
J16 Drake
J19 at Wichita State
J21 at SW Mo. St.
J26 Creighton
J30 at S. Illinois
F2 at Drake
F5 Northern Iowa
F9 at Bradley
F13 Illinois State

F16 Indiana State
F19 at Northern Iowa
F23 Wichita State
F25 at Illinois State
Illinois State
N16 Weber State
N23-25 RMC Shootout
N29 at Geo. Southern
D1 at Texas-S.A.
D8 Samford
D15 at Chattanooga
D18 at Illinois
D22 Kent State
J2 Creighton
J5 at S. Illinois
J7 Wichita State
J10 at Drake
J12 Indiana State
J16 at Creighton
J19 SW Mo. State
J23 at Bradley
J26 Drake
J30 Northern Iowa
F2 at SW Mo. State
F5 Bradley
F9 at Indiana State
F13 at Evansville
F16 Southern Illinois
F20 at Wichita State
F23 at Northern Iowa
F25 Evansville

Indiana State

N18 at Ill.-Chicago
N21 Valparaiso
N25 at Butler

N28 at Eastern Illinois
D1 IUPUI
D3 Murray State
D9 at Drake
D16 at Creighton
D19 at Wyoming
D22 Ball State
D29 Bowling Green
J5 Evansville
J10 Northern Iowa
J12 at Illinois State
J16 Wichita State
J19 at S. Illinois
J23 at Northern Iowa
J27 SW Missouri St.
J31 at Bradley
F3 at Wichita State
F6 Creighton
F9 Illinois State
F13 Bradley
F16 at Evansville
F19 Drake
F23 Southern Illinois
F25 at SW Mo. St.

Northern Iowa
N16-17 Red Raider Cl.
D20 Montana
N25 at Wis.-G. Bay
N29 Texas-Pan Am
D1 at Mo.-Kan. City
D4 Iowa
D8 at Bradley
D15 at Butler
D22 Central Michigan
D29 at Iowa State

SW Missouri St.

N16 at North Texas
N24 Southeast Mo. St.
N27 at UMKC
D1 New Orleans
D4 at Tulsa
D7-8 Pizza Hut Classic
D17-22 Las Vegas Cl.
D30 at Evansville
D32 Saint Louis
J5 Wichita State
J7 at S. Illinois
J10 Bradley
J13 Creighton
J16 at Northern Iowa
J19 at Illinois State
J21 Evansville
J27 at Indiana St.
J30 at Creighton
F2 Illinois State
F6 Drake
F9 at Wichita State

S. Illinois

N16 Belmont
N19 at Saint Louis
N22-24 Las Vegas Inv.
N29 Illinois-Chicago
D1 Indiana
D8 at George Mason
D16 at Cal St.-N'ridge
D18 at Colorado St.
D22 SW Missouri St.
D29 at Murray State
J2 at Evansville
J5 Illinois State
J7 SW Missouri St.
J10 at Wichita State
J12 Northern Iowa
J16 at Bradley
J19 Indiana State

J24 at Drake
J26 at Northern Iowa
J30 Evansville
F3 at Creighton
F6 Wichita State
F9 Drake
F13 at SW Mo. St.
F16 at Illinois State
F20 Creighton
F23 at Indiana State
F25 Bradley
SW Missouri St.
N16 at North Texas
N24 Southeast Mo. St.
N27 at UMKC
D1 New Orleans
D4 at Tulsa
D7-8 Pizza Hut Classic
D17-22 Las Vegas Cl.
D30 at Evansville
D32 Saint Louis
J5 Wichita State
J7 at S. Illinois
J10 Bradley
J13 Creighton
J16 at Northern Iowa
J19 at Illinois State
J21 Evansville
J27 at Indiana St.
J30 at Creighton
F2 Illinois State
F6 Drake
F9 at Wichita State

F12 Southern Illinois
F16 Northern Iowa
F20 at Bradley
F23 at Drake
F25 Indiana State
Wichita State
N15-18 Top of World Cl.
N24 Georgia Southern
N28 Texas-Arlington
D1 at Oklahoma St.
D5 at Kansas State
D8 Tulsa
D17 Jacksonville
D21 West. Carolina
D29 at Chicago State
J2 Bradley
J5 at SW Mo. St.
J7 at Illinois State
J10 Southern Illinois
J12 Drake
J16 at Indiana State
J19 Evansville
J22 Creighton
J27 at Bradley
J30 at Drake
F3 Indiana State
F6 at S. Illinois
F9 SW Missouri St.
F12 at Northern Iowa
F17 at Creighton
F20 Illinois State
F23 at Evansville
F25 Northern Iowa

HORIZON

(Formerly the Midwestern Collegiate Conference)

1. Butler

National Rank: 39

Coach: Todd Lickliter (1st year).

Starters lost (1): LaVall Jordan, G (12.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 46 FG%, 85.9 FT%, 43.9 3%).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (4): Joel Cornette, F/C, 6-10/Jr. (9.1 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 1.1 spg, 57.8 FG%); Rylan Hainje, F, 6-6/Sr. (10.9 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.1 spg, 50.8 FG%, 41.2 3%); Thomas Jackson, G, 5-9/Sr. (13 ppg, 4.3 apg, 1.5 spg, 76.9 FT%, 39.2 3%); Brandon Miller, G, 6-0/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 3.1 apg, 80.9 FT%, 40 3%).

Other returnees: Darnell Archey, G, 6-1/Jr. (7.8 ppg, 46.1 FG%, 95.8 FT%, 42.4 3%); Lewis Curry, F, 6-7/Jr.; Ben Grunst, C, 7-0/So.; Duane Lightfoot Jr., G/F, 6-5/So.; Mike Moore, F/C, 6-10/Jr.; Scott Robisch, C, 6-11/Sr.; Rob Walls, F, 6-5/Jr.

Top newcomers: Andy Grunst, F, 6-8/Fr.; Mike Monserez, G, 6-6/So. (transfer/Notre Dame).

Outlook: Forget that the Bulldogs lost their coach—Thad Matta turned his one-year stint at Butler into a prime job at Xavier. Forget that one of Butler's team leaders, Jordan, has run out of eligibility. The Bulldogs promoted assistant coach Lickliter and have everyone except Jordan back.

Last league title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Indianapolis, Ind. **Home court:** Hinkle Fieldhouse (11,043). **Website:** www.butlersports.com

2. Detroit

National Rank: 75

Coach: Perry Watson (148-88, 8 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (1): Rashad Phillips, G (22.4 ppg, 4.1 apg, 1 spg, 91.6 FT%, 41.5 3%).

Others lost: Walter Craft, C.

Starters returning (4): Darius Belin, G, 6-3/Sr. (4.6 ppg, 1.2 spg); Willie Green, G, 6-4/Jr. (13.2 ppg, 5 rpg, 37.2 3%); Marc Mazur, C, 6-10/Sr. (61.5 FG%); Terrell Riggs, F, 6-7/Jr. (10.1 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 52.1 FG%).

Other returnees: Thomas Dillard, G/F, 6-6/So.; Bernie Fuhs, G, 6-2/Jr.; Greg Grays, G, 6-0/Sr.

(9 ppg, 36.1 3%); Mike Harmon, F/C, 6-11/Sr. (4 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 55.4 FG%); Mark Maxwell, F, 6-8/So.; Hilton Napoleon, F, 6-5/Jr. (50 FG%); Jimmy Twyman, G, 6-0/So.

Top newcomers: David Baxter, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS); Clark Headen, F, 6-9/Fr. (RS).

Outlook: Despite the loss of Phillips, who perhaps was college basketball's best player under 6-0 last season, the Titans should be more complete. But Watson must find a point guard. The top candidate is Twyman. Green, an explosive swingman, probably will take over the bulk of the scoring. The Titans also are one of the nation's top defensive teams.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Detroit. **Home court:** Calihan Hall (8,837).

Website: www.detroittitans.com

3. Cleveland State

National Rank: 127

Coach: Rolie Massimino (69-75, 5 years; 495-354 overall, 28 years; 20-10 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (1): Kevin Ross, F (5.3 ppg, 6.4 rpg).

Others lost: Anthony Jackson, F (50 FG%); Doc Taylor, G (6.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 46.9 FG%).

Starters returning (4): Theo Dixon, G, 6-6/Sr. (18 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 38 3%, 79.4 FT%, 1.2 spg); Jamaal Harris, G, 6-1/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 38.1 3%, 1.3 spg); Jermaine Robinson, G, 6-2/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 37.1 3%, 1.2 spg); Andre Williams, F, 6-5/Jr. (4.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 53.2 FG%).

Other returnees: Pape Badiane, C, 6-11/So.; Paul Bosela, G, 6-4/So.; Tahir Gossley, F, 6-8/Jr. (6.5 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 50.3 FG%, 2 bpg); Joe Rogers, G, 5-9/Sr.

Top newcomers: Percell Coles, G, 6-2/Fr. (Prop 48); John Rabb, F/C, 6-11/Fr. (Prop 48); Tyler Reynolds, F, 6-9/Fr.; Pete Ritzema, C, 7-2/Fr. (RS).

Outlook: Massimino will win his 500th game this season, but will he finally win a conference championship or reach the postseason with the Vikings? His chances improved when streak-shooting guard Harris was granted a fifth year of eligibility. Harris and Dixon, a first-team all-conference swingman, form perhaps the league's best offensive duo.

Last league title: 1993 (Mid-Continent).

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.

Site: Cleveland. **Home court:** Goodman Arena (13,810). **Website:** www.csuivikings.com

4. Wisconsin-Milwaukee

National Rank: 164

Coach: Bruce Pearl (1st year).

Starters lost (1): Chad Angeli, C (10.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 56.9 FG%).

Others lost: Mike Sowder, F/C.

Starters returning (4): Kalombo Kadima, G/F, 6-2/Jr. (6.3 ppg, 48.8 FG%, 43.1 3%); Clay Tucker, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (13.9 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.2 spg, 80.8 FT%, 40.7 3%); Dan Weisse, G, 5-11/Jr. (8.1 ppg, 76.1 FT%, 37.4 3%); James Wright, F, 6-6/So. (6.7 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.2 bpg).

Other returnees: Jason Frederick, G/F, 6-4/Jr.

(11 ppg, 37.4 3%); Ronnie Jones, G, 5-9/Jr.

(6.4 ppg, 75.8 FT%); Justin Lettenberger, F, 6-5/Jr.; Dylan Page, F/C, 6-8/So.

Top newcomers: Chris Hill, G, 5-10/Fr.; Derek Huff, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Mark Pancratz, G, 6-3/Fr.; Adrian Tigert, F, 6-6/Fr.

Outlook: Just when it appeared the Panthers were going to be a regular contender in this league, they took a serious hit when coach Bo Ryan was hired away by Wisconsin. Ryan left behind a competitive team that features some of the league's best shooters. Tucker, Frederick and Weisse ranked in the conference's top 15 in 3-point percentage last season.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Milwaukee. **Home court:** Klotsche Center (5,000). **Website:** www.uwmpanthers.com

Rob Demovsky, Green Bay Press-Gazette

Predictions

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Butler* | 6. Illinois-Chicago |
| 2. Detroit | 7. Wis.-Green Bay |
| 3. Cleveland State | 8. Youngstown State |
| 4. Wis.-Milwaukee | 9. Loyola |
| 5. Wright State | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brandon Miller, Butler	6-0	170	Jr.
G	Thomas Jackson, Butler	5-9	165	Sr.
G/F	Willie Green, Detroit	6-4	188	Jr.
F	Theo Dixon, Cleveland State	6-6	210	Sr.
F	Terrell Riggs, Detroit	6-7	222	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jamaal Harris, Cleveland State	6-1	182	Sr.
G	David Bailey, Loyola	5-8	155	Jr.
G	Jesse Deister, Wright State	6-4	195	Sr.
G/F	Clay Tucker, Wis.-Milwaukee	6-3	195	Jr.
F	Rylan Hainje, Butler	6-6	235	Sr.

Player of the Year

Theo Dixon, Cleveland State

Newcomer of the Year

Cedric Banks, G/F, Illinois-Chicago

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Brandon Miller, Butler

Best rebounder: Terrell Riggs, Detroit

Best playmaker: David Bailey, Loyola

Best defender: Darius Belin, Detroit

Best dunker: Joel Cornette, Butler

Most versatile: Willie Green, Detroit

Most flamboyant: Jamaal Harris, Cleveland State

Best NBA prospect: Theo Dixon, Cleveland State

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Butler*	11	3	24	8
Detroit+	10	4	25	12
Cleveland State	9	5	19	13
Wright State	8	6	18	11
Wis.-Milwaukee	7	7	15	13
Illinois-Chicago	5	9	11	17
Wis.-Green Bay	4	10	11	17
Loyola	2	12	7	21

*Lost to Arizona, 73-52, in NCAA Midwest second round.

+Lost to Memphis, 86-71, in NIT 3rd-place game.

5. Wright State

National Rank: 171

Coach: Ed Schilling (48-64, 4 years).

Starters lost (2): Kevin Melson, F (15 ppg, 6.4 rpg, bpg, 1.1 spg, 45.7 FG%, 76 FT%); Israel Sheinfeld, C (14.7 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 59.4 FG%, 79.8 FT%).

Others lost: Marcus May, G; Bruno Petersons, C (1.4 bpg, 53.1 FG%).

Starters returning (3): Jesse Deister, G, 6-4/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 1.3 ppg, 47.2 FG%, 94.9 FT%, 41.3 3%); Vernard Hollins, G, 6-4/Jr. (9.6 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.1 spg); Thomas Hope, F, 6-9/Jr. (4.4 ppg, 5.6 rpg).

Other returnees: Joe Bills, G, 6-0/Jr. (4 ppg, 45.8 FG%, 75 FT%, 42.2 3%); Braden Bushman, F, 6-4/So.; Michael Doles, F, 6-5/So.; Tyson Freeman, G, 6-0/Jr. (48 3%).

Top newcomers: Malcolm Andrews, G, 5-10/Fr.; Cain Dolihoa, F, 6-7/Sr. (transfer/Dayton); Seth Dolihoa, F, 6-7/So. (transfer/Bowling Green); Ross McGregor, C, 6-9/Fr. (RS).

Outlook: A weak schedule last year allowed Schilling to post his first winning season, which resulted in a three-year contract extension. But the Raiders suffered a big loss this offseason when Sheinfeld, the conference's best big man, decided to turn pro and play overseas.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Dayton, Ohio. **Home court:** Ervin J. Nutter Center (11,061). **Website:** www.wsuraiders.com

6. Illinois-Chicago

National Rank: 184

Coach: Jimmy Collins (66-78, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Maurice Brown, F (10.4 ppg, 8.5 rpg); Joel Bullock, G (8.9 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 4.7 apg, 1.1 spg).

Others lost: Taurus Cook, G (5.7 ppg, 1.1 spg).

Starters returning (3): Jordan Kardos, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 46.8 3%); Jon-Pierre Mitchom, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 38.3 3%); Joe Scott, F, 6-9/Jr. (10.4 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 47.1 FG%).

Other returnees: Aaron Carr, F, 6-4/So. (5.6 ppg, 35.9 3%); Jabari Harris, F, 6-9/So.; Cory Little, G/F, 6-5/Sr.; Jonathan Schneideman, G, 6-1/Jr. (4.3 ppg, 80.8 FG%, 35.5 FG%); Thor Solverson, C, 6-11/Sr. (RS).

Top newcomers: Martell Bailey, G, 5-10/So. (Prop 48); Cedrick Banks, F, 6-2/So. (Prop 48); Will Lewis, F, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Armond Williams, F, 6-4/So. (Prop 48); Josh Williams, F, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: The Flames have been rebuilding since they made their first NCAA Tournament appearance in 1998. The team sustained two unexpected losses this offseason. Brown, who nearly averaged a double-double in conference play last season, and Taurus Cook were academic casualties and will not return.

Last league title: 1998 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Chicago. **Home court:** UIC Pavilion (8,000).

Website: www.uicflames.com

7. Wisconsin-Green Bay

National Rank: 193

Coach: Mike Heideman (101-74, 6 years; 167-99 overall, 10 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Paul Kraft, G (80 FT%); Chris Sager, G (11.8 ppg, 89.5 FT% 44.2 3%).

Others lost: Gene Evans, G.

Starters returning (3): Greg Babcock, C, 6-9/Jr. (4.2 ppg, 50.6 FG%); Mike King, F, 6-8/Jr. (9.6 ppg, 89.5 FT%, 44.2 3%); Greg Monfre, G, 5-11/So. (4.2 ppg, 82.9 FT%, 57.1 3%).

Other returnees: DeVante Blanks, G, 5-10/Sr. (6 ppg, 82.6 FT%, 39.7 3%); Chancellor Collins, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (4.8 ppg, 55.6 FG%); Kevin Hughes, F, 6-7/So.; Aaron Jessup, G, 6-4/Sr. (6.4 ppg); Ryan Mueller, G/F, 6-6/Sr.; Aaron Shaw, G, 6-5/So. (4.4 ppg, 40 3%).

Top newcomers: Slaven Markovic, F, 6-8/Jr. (RS); Calix N'diaye, G, 6-3/Fr.; Matt Rohde, G, 6-2/Fr.

Outlook: Another losing season with diminishing attendance could force the administration to make a coaching change. The team lost the player it planned to build around when Sager, its only double-figures scorer last season, transferred.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Green Bay. **Home court:** Brown County Arena (5,600). **Website:** www.uwgb.edu/athletics

8. Youngstown State

National Rank: 206

Coach: John Robic (31-27, 2 years).

Starters lost (2): Craig Haese, G (14.1 ppg, 93.9 FT%, 42.2 3%); Desmond Harrison, F (10.2 ppg, 6.8 rpg).

Others lost: Randy Brooks, G; Dave Brown, C (4.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg); Andrew Hannan, F (5.4 ppg, 52.4 FG%).

Starters returning (3): TeJay Anderson, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.1 ppg, 60.8 FG%); Stephen Flores, F, 6-7/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 6 rpg); Ryan Patton, G, 5-11/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 5.6 apg).

Other returnees: Jeff Ball, C, 6-10/Sr.; Rafael Cruz, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 83.8 FT%); Khari McQueen, F, 6-5/So.; Marlon Williamson, G, 5-11/Jr.

Top newcomers: Sean Johnson, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Kenneth Lampley, F, 6-7/Fr.; Bill Mallernee, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Capitol); Jimmy Moore, G, 6-5/Fr.; Brian Radakovich, F, 6-7/Fr. Doug Underwood, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: The Penguins overachieved by finishing third in the Mid-Continent Conference last season. The team lost close games to Wisconsin-Green Bay and Detroit last season, an indication it will be competitive.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Youngstown, Ohio. **Home court:** Beeghly Center (6,500). **Website:** www.yzu.edu/sports

9. Loyola (Ill.)

National Rank: 242

Coach: Larry Farmer (30-53, 3 years; 125-130 overall, 9 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Schin Kerr, F (13.3 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 45.3 FG%); Hubert Radke, C (5 ppg).

Others lost: Jerrell Parker, G (6.9 ppg); Wayne Plowman, F.

Starters returning (3): David Bailey, G, 5-8/Jr. (17.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 6.1 apg, 1.5 spg); Ryan Blankson, G, 6-6/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 51.6 FG%); Louis Smith, G, 6-4/So.

Other returnees: Jonathan Freeman, F, 6-7/Sr. (45.6 FG%); Corey Minnifield, F, 6-8/So. (5.5 ppg, 78.6 FT%); Jason Telford, G, 6-2/So.; Silviye Turkovic, C, 6-10/Sr. (7 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 47 FG%).

Top newcomers: Joe Evert, F, 6-8/Fr.; DaJuan Gouard, G, 6-2/Fr.; Reo Logan, C, 6-11/So. (transfer/Miami (Fla.); Anthony Smith, F, 6-9/Fr.; Antoine Smith, F, 6-8/Fr.; Vasilis Tsimplavidas, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Farmer, the former UCLA coach, hasn't found the right mix to compete. He'll try to do so with two new assistants and six new recruits. In the middle of the changes is Bailey, Loyola's one proven player.

Last league title: 1987 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1985.

Site: Chicago. **Home court:** Joseph J. Gentile Center (5,200). **Website:** www.loyolaramblers.com

Schedules

Butler	N24 at Vermont	D15 Toledo	J5 Cleveland State	J17 Illinois-Chicago	J28 Youngstown St.	F4 at Loyola (Ill.)	F17 at Wis.-G. Bay
N15-18 Top of World Cl.	D1 Siena	D19 at Central Mich.	J10 at Wis.-G. Bay	J19 Youngstown St.	F2 at Wis.-Milw.	F7 at Ill.-Chicago	F21 Illinois-Chicago
N25 Indiana State	D4 at Stony Brook	D22 at Bowling Green	J12 at Wis.-Milw.	J24 at Butler	F7 at Loyola	F9 Youngstown St.	F24 Loyola
N27 at Purdue	D8 California	D28-29 Cable Car Cl.	J17 at Loyola (Ill.)	J26 Wright State	F9 at Ill.-Chicago	F14 Wright State	Youngstown St.
D3 at Lipscomb	D15 Akron	J3 at Ill.-Chicago	J19 at IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	J31 at Cleveland St.	F11 at Detroit	F21 at Cleveland St.	N17 at Evansville
D8 Evansville	D19 at Florida State	J5 at Loyola (Ill.)	J21 Youngstown St.	F2 at Youngst'wn St.	F14 Butler	F23 at Detroit	N20 Slippery Rock
D15 Northern Iowa	D22 Prairie View	J10 Butler	J26 Butler	F4 Wis.-Milwaukee	F17 Wright State		N25 at DePaul
D17 at Mt. St. Mary's	D27 Duquesne	J12 Wright State	J28 Wright State	F7 Wis.-Green Bay	F21 at Youngst'wn St.		N29 at Valparaiso
D19 at Ball State	D29 Kent State	J17 at Youngstown St.	J31 at Detroit	F9 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	F23 at Cleveland St.		D1 at Chicago State
D22 Birm. Southern	J3 at Loyola	J19 Cleveland State	F2 at Cleveland St.	F16 at Ill.-Chicago			D8 at Toledo
D28-29 Hoosier Cl.	J5 at Ill.-Chicago	J24 at Wis.-G. Bay	F4 at Youngstown St.	F21 Butler			D15 Kent State
J2 Wright State	J7 Butler	J26 at Wis.-Milw.	F7 Wis.-Milwaukee	F23 at Wright State			D19 Robert Morris
J7 at Cleveland St.	J10 Youngstown St.	F7 at Wright State	F9 Wis.-Green Bay	F16 Loyola (Ill.)			D22 at UMKC
J10 at Detroit	J14 Wright State	F9 at Butler	F21 at Wright State	F23 at Butler			D30 at W. Illinois
J12 at Youngst'wn St.	J26 at Wis.-G. Bay	F11 Wis.-Green Bay					J2 Wis.-Milwaukee
J17 Wis.-Green Bay	J30 Loyola	F14 Loyola (Ill.)					J5 Wright State
J19 Wis.-Milwaukee	F2 Illinois-Chicago	F16 at Cleveland St.					J10 at Cleveland St.
J23 Loyola	F7 at Wright State	F18 Youngstown St.					J12 Butler
J26 at Ill.-Chicago	F9 at Butler	F23 Wis.-Milwaukee					J17 Detroit
J30 at Wis.-Milw.	F14 at Youngst'wn St.						J19 at Loyola (Ill.)
F2 at Wright State	F16 Detroit						J21 at Ill.-Chicago
F7 Detroit	F21 Wis.-Milwaukee						J28 at Wis.-G. Bay
F9 Cleveland State	F23 Wis.-Green Bay						J31 at Wright State
F14 at Wis.-G. Bay							F2 Loyola (Ill.)
F16 Youngstown St.							F4 Illinois-Chicago
F20 at Loyola							F9 at Wis.-Milw.
F23 Illinois-Chicago							F14 Cleveland State
Cleveland State							F16 at Butler
N16 at IUPUI	N24 Alabama A&M	D1 West Michigan	D21-23 Las Vegas Cl.	J3 Cleveland State	J17 at Butler	F7 Cleveland State	F21 Wis.-Green Bay
N20 St. Bonaventure	D6 at Oakland	D8 North Central	D28-29 USF Shootout	J5 Detroit	J19 at Wright State	F9 Detroit	F23 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
	D9 at Maryland	D15 Northern Illinois		J10 at Wis.-Milw.	J24 Detroit	F14 at Wis.-Milw.	
		D17 at Purdue		J12 at Wis.-G. Bay	J26 Cleveland State		

WEST COAST

1. Gonzaga

National Rank: 27

Coach: Mark Few (56-12, 2 years; 4-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Casey Calvary, F (19 ppg, 6.7 rpg); Mark Spink, F (7.5 ppg, 58 FG%).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (3): Dan Dickau, G, 6-0/Jr. (18.9 ppg, 6.3 apg); Zach Gourde, F, 6-8/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 63 FG%); Blake Stepp, G, 6-4/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 3.6 rpg).

Other returnees: Kyle Bankhead, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (5.6 ppg); Germaine Forbes, G, 6-0/Jr.; Alex Hernandez, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (6.8 ppg); Anthony Reason, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (4.5 ppg); Jay Sherrell, F, 6-8/Sr.; Jimmy Tricco, G, 6-7/Jr.; Cory Violette, F/C, 6-8/Sr.

Top newcomers: Winston Brooks, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Brian Michaelson, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS); Josh Reisman, G, 6-0/Fr.; Dustin Villepigue, F, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: Losing conference player of the year Calvary and Defender of the Year Spink would be tough on any league program except this one, which is on a roll that doesn't show signs of stopping. Few is likely to ask for more from All-WCC guard Dickau and last year's freshman of the year, Stepp. And considering what they did in their first year in the league, it isn't unreasonable to expect he'll get it. Dickau is a legitimate All-American candidate. Stepp played admirably at the point when Dickau was out with a broken finger and put the hurt on opponents from the perimeter when used at shooting guard. Stepp's offseason knee surgery poses a question, but the Bulldogs have a kennel of other capable guards if the recovery isn't fast and complete. Gourde is one of the better all-around front-line players in the league, and Hernandez showed reliability off the bench in key and late-season games last year. Villepigue comes in as the most likely "impact" newcomer.

Last league title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Spokane, Wash. **Home court:** The Kennel (4,000). **Website:** www.gozags.com

2. San Francisco

National Rank: 98

Coach: Philip Matthews (94-80, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): James Lee, F (11.8 ppg, 6 rpg); Ali Thomas, G (11.2 ppg, 4.2 apg).

Others lost: Chris Barideaux, G; Andre Brown, G.

Starters returning (3): Hondre Brewer, C, 7-0/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 6.2 rpg); Shamell Stallworth, G, 6-5/Jr. (8 ppg); Darrell Tucker, F, 6-9/Jr. (16.5 ppg, 6.8 rpg).

Other returnees: Tayo Akinsete, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.7 ppg); Eugene Brown, F, 6-9/Jr.; John Cox, G, 6-4/Sr.; Jason Gaines, G, 6-0/Fr. (RS); Eddy Harris, G, 6-1/Jr.; Tony Hickman, G, 5-10/Sr.; LyRyan Russell, G, 6-0/Sr.

Top newcomers: Scepter Brownlee, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Mike Chambers, G, 6-2/Fr.; Jerome Gumbs, G, 6-4/Fr.; DeWayne Morris, G, 6-4/Fr.

Outlook: Tucker and Brewer potentially form the most formidable frontcourt in the league. But when the Dons had a run of injuries at guard last year, opponents were often able to dominate in the backcourt while denying and frustrating Tucker and Brewer. This year, that might not be so easy to do.

Russell and Gaines, injured last season, are back. And Matthews made a priority of shoring up the backcourt—four of the five new recruits play there. Tucker finished in the top three in the WCC in scoring and rebounding in an "off" year and didn't make the all-conference team. Brewer set a league record for blocks but spent a lot of time on the bench in foul trouble. Motivation, anyone?

Last league title: 1981.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: San Francisco. **Home court:** War Memorial Gymnasium (5,300). **Website:** www.usfdons.com

3. Santa Clara

National Rank: 116

Coach: Dick Davey (160-102, 9 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Jamie Holmes, F (13.6 ppg, 7.4 rpg); Brian Jones, G (16 ppg, 5 rpg).

Others lost: Andre Bobbit, F; Stephen Dely, C; Dustin Warford, G.

Starters returning (3): Kyle Bailey, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 2.8 rpg); David Emslie, C, 6-11/Sr. (4.4 ppg, 3.6 rpg); Steve Ross, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (12.2 ppg, 5.5 rpg).

Other returnees: Justin Holbrook, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.2 ppg); Jim Howell, F/C, 6-8/Sr.; Jason Morrisette, G, 6-4/Sr.; Brian Vaka, G, 6-2/Sr. (4.5 ppg); Jason Westphal, F, 6-6/Sr. (70 FG%).

Top newcomers: Bakari Altheimer, G, 5-10/Fr.; Scott Borchard, F/C, 6-8/Fr.; Jordan Legge, F, 6-9/Fr.; Linden Tibbetts, F/C, 6-10/Fr.

Outlook: Jones and Holmes were the leaders in every aspect of a commendable 2000-2001 season. Now the Broncos must find people to take their place. Ross, who blossomed last year, and Bailey, a nice complement to Jones as a true freshman, are the top candidates. But being "the man" can be very different from playing alongside "the man." At the least, the Broncos should be a typical Davey team, having good overall talent and sound fundamentals. Look for Emslie to continue to show improvement and be more of a force inside and Holbrook to become more than the situational long-range scoring threat he has been.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Santa Clara, Calif. **Home court:** Leavey Center (5,000). **Website:** www.santaclarabroncos.com

4. Pepperdine

National Rank: 144

Coach: Paul Westphal (1st year; 84-27 overall, 2 years).

Starters lost (3): Derrick Anderson, G (7 ppg, 1.7 spg); Brandon Armstrong, G (22.1 ppg); Kelvin Gibbs, F (15 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 50.9 FG%, 60.3%).

Others lost: Randy Roy, G; Elan Buller, G; Michael Hall, G (academics); David Lalazarian, F (10 ppg).

Starters returning (2): Boomer Brazzle, F, 6-5/Jr.; Craig Lewis, G, 6-3/Sr. (9 ppg, 1.3 spg, 76.9 FT%).

Other returnees: Dustin Johnson, F, 6-7/Jr.; Glen McGowan, F, 6-8/Sr.; Micah McKinney, G, 6-3/Sr.; Will Kimble, C, 6-10/Sr.; Cedric Suitt, C, 6-10/Sr. (1.1 bpg, 54.8 FG%); Michael Westphal, G, 6-3/Sr.

Top newcomers: Terrance Johnson, G, 6-5/Fr. (RS); Gary Colbert, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Jimmy Miggins, F,

Hank Wesch, San Diego Union-Tribune

Predictions

1. Gonzaga*
2. San Francisco
3. Santa Clara
4. Pepperdine
5. San Diego
6. Loyola Marymount
7. St. Mary's
8. Portland

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Dan Dickau, Gonzaga	6-0	170	Sr.
G	Craig Lewis, Pepperdine	6-3	185	Sr.
G	Blake Stepp, Gonzaga	6-4	190	So.
C	Hondre Brewer, San Francisco	7-0	225	Sr.
F	Darrell Tucker, San Francisco	6-9	215	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Andre Laws, San Diego	6-1	190	Sr.
G	Steve Ross, Santa Clara	6-6	210	Jr.
G	Kyle Bailey, Santa Clara	6-2	200	So.
F	Zach Gourde, Gonzaga	6-8	249	Jr.
C	Cedric Suitt, Pepperdine	6-10	225	So.

Player of the Year

Dan Dickau, Gonzaga

Newcomer of the Year

Devin Montgomery, G, Pepperdine

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Dan Dickau, Gonzaga

Best rebounder: Darrell Tucker, San Francisco

Best playmaker: Dan Dickau, Gonzaga

Best defender: Hondre Brewer, San Francisco

Best dunker: Darrell Tucker, San Francisco

Most versatile: Steve Ross, Santa Clara

Most flamboyant: Andre Laws, San Diego

Best NBA prospect: Darrell Tucker, San Francisco

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Gonzaga*	13	1	21	6
Pepperdine+	12	2	20	7
Santa Clara	10	4	18	11
San Diego	7	7	15	12
San Francisco	5	9	12	16
Loyola Marymount	5	9	9	18
Portland	4	10	11	16
St. Mary's	0	14	2	25

*Lost to Mich. St., 77-62, in NCAA South semifinals.

+Lost to New Mexico, 81-78, in NIT second round.

6-6/Jr. (JC); Devin Montgomery, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Robert Turner, F, 6-9/Fr. (RS).

Outlook: Two years ago, Waves returnees got behind new coach Jan van Breda Kolff and produced one of the best seasons in school history. Team followers are hoping something similar happens under Westphal, hired when van Breda Kolff migrated back east to St. Bonaventure. The overall talent Westphal inherits isn't far from what his predecessor had. And the only real concern, albeit a big one, is replacing Armstrong, a first-round NBA pick. Lewis will take up some of the slack. McKinney and newcomer Montgomery, who made the Atlantic 10 All-Freshman team two years ago at Duquesne, also will contribute to a backcourt that again looks quick and dangerous from anywhere. Up front, Suitt's

progress has been modest, but he's capable of a breakout senior season.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Mailibu, Calif. **Home court:** Firestone Fieldhouse (3,104) **Website:** www.pepperdine.edu/athletics

5. San Diego

National Rank: 172

Coach: Brad Holland (110-86, 7 years; 133-117 overall, 9 years).

Starters lost (3): Tyler Field, C (9.4 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 55.5 FG%); Cameron Rigby, F (6.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 83.8 FT%); Dana White, G (8.4 ppg).

Others lost: Nick Greene, F (7.8 ppg, 5.2 rpg).

Starters returning (2): Sam Adamo, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 41.8 3%); Andre Laws, G, 6-1/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 1.2 spg).

Other returnees: Scott Boardman, G/F, 6-5/Jr.; Matt Delzell, G/F, 6-2/Jr. (4.2 ppg); Kevin Hanson, C, 6-10, Sr.; Tom Lippold, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 50 3%); Roy Morris, G, 6-2/Jr. (70.5 FT%).

Top newcomers: Jason Blair, F, 6-7/So.

(transfer/Southwest Texas State); Corey Belser, G, 6-5/Fr.; Ryan Hegarty, C, 6-10/Fr. (RS); Nick Lewis, F, 6-9/Fr.; Michael McGrain, G, 6-2/Fr.

Outlook: After failing to live up to high expectations last season, the Toreros have reverted to their familiar never-dominating-or-dominated, always-dangerous role. Recent Torero teams have been able to defend and rebound with anybody. To continue rebounding proficiently, the Toreros will need strong senior seasons from Lippold and Hanson, or one of several untested newcomers must step up. There are questions about offensive firepower too, although Laws and Adamo are certainly capable of helping if they can find the confidence to score consistently. Holland landed the three players he most wanted—McGrain, Belser and Lewis—for his first recruiting class that will play in the new on-campus Jenny Craig Pavilion, which opened last year. It'll be a big boost if one or more of them live up to the coach's high opinion.

Last league title: 1987.

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: San Diego. **Home court:** Jenny Craig Pavilion (5,100). **Website:** www.usdtoreros.com

6. Loyola Marymount

National Rank: 233

Coach: Steve Aggers (9-19, 1 year; 60-101 overall, 6 years).

Starters lost (2): Pablo Machado, C (8.8 ppg, 5.5 rpg); Elton Mashack, F (11.3 ppg, 6.1 rpg).

Others lost: Guy Vernikovsky, G.

Starters returning (3): Robert Davis, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.9 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Greg Lakey, F, 6-7/Sr. (10.4 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 53.5 FG%); Eurskine Robinson, G, 6-0/Sr. (5.4 ppg, 3 apg, 75.7 FT%).

Other returnees: Phillip Czernin, G/F, 6-6/Sr.

(6.1 ppg); Sherman Gay, F, 6-7/So.; Sean Mollins, F, 6-7/Sr.; Marcus Smith, G, 6-0/Sr. (7.8 ppg).

Top newcomers: Charles Brown Jr., G, 6-0/Fr.; Kent Dennis, G, 6-4/So. (transfer/West Virginia); Jason Dickens, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Keith Kincave, G/F, 6-6/So. (transfer/West Virginia); Miroslav Neskovic, F, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Andy Osborn, F, 6-9/Fr.

Outlook: The first step on a long road back under Aggers was taken last year when a team that didn't beat a Division I rival in 1999-2000 downed eight of them. Aggers made size a recruiting priority and got it in Neskovic, Osborn and Dickens. If the newcomers prove to have some talent to go with the size, the Lions again could be a good rebounding team. To continue to rise, the Lions must improve their shooting and establish scoring threats beyond Davis.

Last league title: 1990.

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Los Angeles. **Home court:** Gersten Pavilion (4,156). **Website:** www.lmulions.com

7. St. Mary's

National Rank: 291

Coach: Randy Bennett (1st year).

Starters lost (2): Jovan Harris, G (15.1 ppg, 1.1 spg, 77.7 FT%, left school); Frankie King, G (1 spg).

Others lost: Anthony Jones, G; Jonas Balciunas, F.

Starters returning (3): Chris Baert, C, 6-9/Sr. (6.4 ppg); Ross Benson, F, 6-10/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg); Teohn Conner, G, 6-3/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 4.2 rpg).

Other returnees: Ervin Anderson, F, 6-8/Sr.; Tyler Herr, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (6.2 ppg); Chase Poole, F, 6-8/So.; Paul Marigney, G, 6-3/So. (4.3 ppg); Chris Schlatter, F, 6-6/So. (7.8 ppg); Ethnie Stubbs, F, 6-6/Sr.

Top newcomers: Andy Bates, F, 6-6/Fr.; Ryan

Nelson, F, 6-0/Fr.; Scott O'Hara, F, 6-3/Fr.; Samule Saint-Jean, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Bennett, a former top assistant at San Diego and Pepperdine, knows the league and what it takes to be competitive in it. Gathering the necessities to do so at Saint Mary's in the wake of last year's disaster won't be easy and will take time. With Harris gone, the Gaels will struggle to find scoring. Given Bennett's background, look for him to emphasize defense and a controlled offense in hopes of snatching victories.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Moraga, Calif. **Home court:** McKeon Pavillion (3,500). **Website:** www.smcgaels.com

8. Portland

National Rank: 292

Coach: Michael Holton (1st year).

Starters lost (4): Travis Andrews, G/F (10.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg); Tim Frost, C (14.9 ppg, 7 rpg, transferred/Utah); Ryan Jones, G (13 ppg, left school); Diaby Kamara, F.

Others lost: Philip Dejworek, F (7.7 ppg, 46.4 FG%, 36.8 3%); Bryan Mills, F.

Starter returning (1): Adam Quick, G, 6-1/So. (4.2 ppg, 4.2 apg, 82.8 FT%).

Other returnees: Ross Jorgensen, G, 6-1/Sr. (4.6 ppg); Casey Frandsen, G, 6-2/So.; Coky Rochin, F, 6-8/Sr. (7 ppg, 4.1 rpg); Ghislain Sema, F, 6-8/Jr. (RS).

Top newcomers: Karl Aaker, G, 6-5/Fr.; Patrick Galos, F, 6-7/Fr.; Brian Kim, G, 6-4/Fr.; Eric Knight, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Erik Soderberg, C, 6-9/Fr.; Matt Towsley, C, 6-11/Fr. (RS).

Outlook: The Pilots took a big hit when Frost, one of the best big men in the league, and Jones, a streak-shooting, long-range scorer, left. Holton, formerly a top assistant at UCLA, has a lot of holes to fill in a short time. He didn't go for the quick fix, bringing in only one JC transfer in his initial recruiting class of five, but unless the talent level proves higher than at first glance, the price of youth is likely to be paid this season. The best of the returnees are Quick, one of the best assist men in the league, and Jorgensen, a good defender.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Portland, Ore. **Home court:** Leavey Center (5,000). **Website:** www.portlandpilots.com

Schedules

Gonzaga

N16 at Illinois
N18 Montana
N21-24 Gr. Alaska Shoot.
N29 Ark.-Pine Bluff
D1 Portland State
D4 E. Washington
D7 Fresno State*
D11 at Washington
D15 Washington St.
D21 Eastern Oregon
D29 at Monmouth
D31 at St. Joseph's
J7 at New Mexico
J11 Santa Clara
J13 San Diego
J18 at Pepperdine
J19 at Loyola Mary.
J24 San Francisco
J26 St. Mary's
J30 Portland
F2 at Portland
F7 at San Diego
F9 at Santa Clara
F14 Loyola Mary.
F16 Pepperdine
F22 at St. Mary's
F23 at San Francisco
*at Las Vegas

Loyola Mary.

N13-21 Guardians Cl.
N17 Idaho State
N24 at CS Fullerton
N28 UC Irvine
D2 at Texas A&M
D5 UC Santa Barb.
D8 CS Sacramento
D15 UNLV
D18 at Long Beach St.
D22 USC
D30 at Montana
J2 Occidental
J5 at Portland State
J11 at San Francisco
J12 at St. Mary's
J18 Portland
J19 Gonzaga
J24 at San Diego
J26 at Santa Clara
J30 at Pepperdine
F2 Pepperdine
F8 St. Mary's
F9 San Francisco
F14 at Gonzaga
F16 at Portland
F22 Santa Clara
F23 San Diego

Pepperdine

N17 CS Fullerton
N20 at UC Irvine
N28 at UCLA
D1 at Utah
D4 Long Beach St.
D7 USC*
D8 at UC Santa Barb.
D15 at Fresno State
D17 Georgia
D21 Point Loma
D28-30 Fiesta Bowl Cl.
J5 Brigham Young
J11 at St. Mary's
J12 at San Francisco
J18 Gonzaga
J19 Portland
J24 at Santa Clara
J26 at San Diego
J30 Loyola Mary.
F2 at Loyola Mary.
F8 San Francisco
F9 St. Mary's
F14 at Portland
F16 at Gonzaga
F22 San Diego
F23 Santa Clara
*at Las Vegas

Portland

N17 UC Riverside
N20 Idaho State
N25 at Duke
N28 at Idaho
D1 Oregon
D5 Texas-Pan Am
D8 at Portland State
D15 E. Washington
D19-22 Rainbow Cl.
D29 Lehigh
J2 at Idaho State
J5 Montana State
J10 San Diego
J12 Santa Clara
J18 at Loyola Mary.
J19 at Pepperdine
J24 St. Mary's
J26 San Francisco
J30 at Gonzaga
F2 Gonzaga
F7 at Santa Clara
F9 at San Diego
F14 Pepperdine
F16 Loyola Mary.
F18 at Oregon State
F22 at San Francisco
F23 at St. Mary's

St. Mary's

N16 at UC Irvine
N21 Nevada
N24 at Cal Poly
N28 Sacramento St.
D1 at UC Santa Barb.
D5 at San Jose St.
D8 UC Santa Cruz
D18 Loyola (Ill.).
D21 E. Washington
D28-29 Lobo Classic
J2 at Colorado
J7 Utah
J11 Pepperdine
J12 Loyola Mary.
J16 San Francisco
J19 at San Francisco
J24 at Portland
J26 at Gonzaga
F1 Santa Clara
F2 San Diego
F8 at Loyola Mary.
F9 at Pepperdine
F14 at San Diego
F16 at Santa Clara
F22 Gonzaga
F23 Portland

San Diego

N17 Brigham Young
N20 UC San Diego
N24 at Portland State
N26 at Oregon State
D1 Washington
D5 San Diego State
D8 Boise State
D11 UC Irvine
D20 USC
D22 Southern Oregon
D29-30 Bobcat Classic
J3 at CS-Nrthridge
J10 at Portland
J12 at Gonzaga
J16 at Santa Clara
J19 Santa Clara
J24 Loyola Mary.
J26 Pepperdine
F1 at San Francisco
F2 at St. Mary's
F7 Gonzaga
F9 Portland
F14 St. Mary's
F16 San Francisco
F22 at Pepperdine
F23 at Loyola Mary.

San Francisco

N16 Seton Hall
N19 at CS Fullerton
N24 UC Santa Barb.
N28 at Nevada
D1 Xavier
D4 at Fresno State
D8 CS Hayward
D15 Pacific
D18 at Texas A&M-CC
D20 at Southern
D29 Michigan*
J2 at BYU
J5 Texas A&M-CC
J11 Loyola Mary.
J12 Pepperdine
J16 at St. Mary's
J19 St. Mary's
J24 at Gonzaga
J26 at Portland
J31 San Diego
F2 Santa Clara
F8 at Pepperdine
F9 at Loyola Mary.
F14 at Santa Clara
F16 at San Diego
F22 Portland
F23 Gonzaga
*at Oakland

Santa Clara

N17 Pacific
N20 at California
N24 at Washington
N27 at San Jose St.
D1 at Nevada
D12 at Ohio State
D15 at Wright State
D18 Stanford Inv.
D22 Chico State
D28-29 Cable Car Cl.
J4 Loyola (Md.)
J10 at Gonzaga
J12 at Portland
J16 San Diego
J19 at San Diego
J24 Pepperdine
J26 Loyola Mary.
F1 at St. Mary's
F2 at San Francisco
F7 Portland
F9 Gonzaga
F14 San Francisco
F16 St. Mary's
F22 at Loyola Mary.
F23 at Pepperdine

SUN BELT

EAST DIVISION

1. Western Kentucky

National Rank: 37

Coach: Dennis Felton (48-41, 3 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (1): Nashon McPherson, G (10.4 ppg).

Others lost: Golden Ingle, G; Raimonds Jumikis, F.

Starters returning (4): David Boyden, F, 6-8/Jr.

(7.4 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 46 FG%); Chris Marcus, C,

7-1/Sr. (16.7 ppg, 12.1 rpg, 3.1 bpg, 55 FG%);

Derek Robinson, G, 6-1/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 1.3 spg); Flip

Videnov, G, 6-4/Jr. (6.5 ppg, 46 FG%, 82 FT%).

Other returnees: Brian Allenspach, C, 6-11/Sr.;

Raynardo Curry, G, 6-0/Jr. (4.7 ppg, 1.4 spg); Nathan

Eisert, G, 6-5/So.; Todor Pandov, F, 6-9/So. (RS);

Tremain Rowles, G, 6-4/Sr. (5.7 ppg, 1.3 spg).

Top newcomers: Caleb Halcomb, F, 6-10/So.

(Prop 48); Patrick Sparks, G, 6-1/Fr.

Outlook: The nation's leading rebounder, Marcus developed a deft shooting touch in only his third season of organized play and helped revitalize one of the league's storied programs. Robinson was among the league's assists leaders, Boyden had career-best games at the end of his third season and Videnov is one of the Sun Belt's best shooters.

Last league title: 2001 (Sun Belt East).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Bowling Green, Ky. **Home court:** E.A. Diddle Arena (11,300). **Website:** www.wkusports.com

2. Arkansas State

National Rank: 170

Coach: Dickey Nutt (89-82, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Matt Pruitt, G (80 FT%, 38 3%);

Jamie Rosser, G (11.4 ppg, 4.4 apg, 47.6 FG%,

86 FT%, 43 3%).

Others lost: Claude Davis, G (90 FT%); Justin Meads, C.

Starters returning (3): Jason Jennings, C, 7-0/Sr.

(13.9 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 53 FG%); Nick Rivers, G,

6-1/Sr. (13.5 ppg); Kolin Weaver, F, 6-9/Sr.

(11.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 53 FG%, 77 FT%, 38 FG%).

Other returnees: Kim Adams, F, 6-8/So. (4.9 ppg,

6 rpg, 63 FG%); Jon Beck, G, 6-0/Jr. (36 3%);

Tony Brown, G, 6-3/Jr. (RS); DeWayne Hart, G,

6-5/So. (52 FG%); Josh Sokolewicz, F, 6-8/Jr.

(54 FG%, 80 FT%, 53 3%); Odie Williams, G,

6-3/Jr. (5 ppg);

Top newcomers: Lucious Leneer, F, 6-7/Fr.;

Jonathan Reed, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Terrance Saulsberry,

G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Eugueni Sokolov, F, 6-9/Fr.

Outlook: Jennings and Weaver give Arkansas State enough beef to bang with anybody. Next to Marcus, Jennings might have been the league's most improved player last season. Rivers averaged 15.2 points once he cracked the starting lineup. Adams, the sixth man last season, and Saulsberry, one of the country's top junior college shooters, are worth watching on a roster that includes nine juniors and seniors.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Jonesboro, Ark. **Home court:** Convocation Center (10,563). **Website:** www.asuindians.com

3. Florida International

National Rank: 188

Coach: Donnie Marsh (8-21, 1 year; 84-75,

6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Carlos Arroyo, G (21.2 ppg, 4 apg,

1.8 spg); Karel Rosario, C (12.8 ppg, 8.4 rpg).

Others lost: Akin Joseph, G (78 FT%); Ben

Schifferer, G/F.

Starters returning (3): Chris Carter, F, 6-6/Sr.

(49 FG%); Fab Fisher, G, 5-9/Jr. (77 FT%); Haven

Jackson, G, 6-2/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 1.1 spg).

Other returnees: Javier Cuenca, F, 6-4/Jr.; Carlos

Fernandez, F, 6-7/Jr.; Slavcho Slavtchev, G, 6-4/So.

(5.9 ppg, 46 FG%, 47 3%).

Top newcomers: John Boney, G/F, 6-5/So. (Prop 48);

Al Harris, F, 6-9/So. (transfer/Seton Hall); Taurance

Johnson, F, 6-9/Fr.; David Luber, G, 5-11/Fr.; Carlos

Morban, G, 6-3/Fr.; Nikola Novakovic, F/C, 6-8/Jr.

(JC); Todd Smith, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Rodrigo Viegas, F,

6-6/Jr. (transfer/Virginia Tech).

Outlook: The Golden Panthers' incoming group, headed by transfers Harris and Viegas, is impressive. The three returning starters were window dressing to Arroyo and Rosario last season, but if they mesh and the new group is as good as advertised, the team could have a shot at the postseason.

Last league title: 1995 (TAAC East).

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Miami. **Home court:** Golden Panther Arena

(5,000). **Website:** www.fiu.edu/orgs/athletics

4. Arkansas-Little Rock

National Rank: 224

Coach: Porter Moser (18-11, 1 year).

Starters lost (3): Alan Barksdale, G (12.3 ppg,

47 FG%, 89 FT%, 45 3%); Stan Blackmon, F

(18.4 ppg, 7 rpg, 1.4 spg, 55 FG%); Laverne Smith,

G (12.4 ppg, 1.1 spg, 78 FT%, 35 3%);

Others lost: Roland Bryant, F; Bryan Crislip, G;

Michael Neal, F.

Starters returning (2): Alex Finger, G, 6-0/Jr.

(37 3%, 1.1 spg); Jake Yancey, F, 6-10/So. (57 FG%).

Other returnees: Darius Eason, F, 6-9/So.; Mark

Green, G, 6-2/Jr. (7.9 ppg, 1.3 spg, 46 3%); Richard

Hardman, F, 6-6/So. (RS); Damion Ninkovic, F,

6-5/Sr. (4.6 ppg); Jermaine Speights, 6-2/So.;

Columbus Willis, F, 6-5/So. (53 FG%); Nick Zachery,

G, 6-3/So. (10.4 ppg, 1.2 spg, 47 FG%, 47 3%);

Top newcomers: Green, G, 6-2/Fr.; Rory Jibrah

Ike, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Josh Jacobs, F, 6-6/Fr.; Nick

Jones, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Danny McCall, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Coach Moser led a 14-game turnaround in his first season. But only four returnees received anything more than token minutes, and only one averaged more than 5 points. Zachery is a pure shooter, but the team was most effective last season with Finger at the point.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1989.

Site: Little Rock, Ark. **Home court:** Alltel Arena

(18,000). **Website:** www.ualr.edu/~athletics

5. Middle Tennessee

National Rank: 307

Coach: Randy Wiel (70-75, 5 years. 102-105

Dan McDonald
Lafayette (La.) Daily Advertiser

Predictions

East

1. Western Kentucky*
2. Arkansas State
3. Florida International
4. Arkansas-Little Rock
5. Middle Tennessee

*NCAA tourney pick

West

1. New Mexico State
2. South Alabama
3. Louisiana-Lafayette
4. Denver
5. New Orleans
6. North Texas

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Nick Rivers, Arkansas State	6-1	180	Sr.
G	Eric Channing, New Mexico St.	6-4	190	Sr.
F	Anthony Johnson, UL-Lafayette	6-6	185	Jr.
C	Chris Marcus, Western Kentucky	7-1	285	Sr.
C	Jason Jennings, Arkansas State	7-0	250	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Demetrick Williams, S. Alabama	6-1	155	Jr.
G	Blane Harmon, UL-Lafayette	6-2	210	Sr.
G	Chris Davis, North Texas	6-2	215	Jr.
F	Wahhab Carter, Denver	6-6	207	Sr.
F	Rodrigo Viegas, Fla. International	6-6	212	Jr.

Player of the Year

Chris Marcus, Western Kentucky

Newcomer of the Year

Rodrigo Viegas, Florida International

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Eric Channing, New Mexico State

Best rebounder: Chris Marcus, Western Kentucky

Best playmaker: Nick Rivers, Arkansas State

Best defender: Chris Marcus, Western Kentucky

Best dunker: Anthony Johnson, UL-Lafayette

Most versatile: Kolin Weaver, Arkansas State

Most flamboyant: Tremain Rowles, Western Kentucky

Best NBA prospect: Chris Marcus, Western Kentucky

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
East				
Western Kentucky*	14	2	24	7
Louisiana Tech	10	6	17	12
Arkansas State	10	6	17	13
Ark.-Little Rock	9	7	18	11
Florida International	5	11	8	21
Middle Tennessee	1	15	5	22
West				
South Alabama+	11	5	22	11
New Orleans	10	6	17	12
UL-Lafayette	10	6	16	13
New Mexico State	10	6	14	14
Denver	5	11	10	18
North Texas	1	15	4	24

*Lost to Florida, 69-56, in NCAA South first round.

+Lost to Toledo, 76-67, in NIT first round.

overall, 8 years).

Starters lost (2): Freddie Martinez, F (8.7 ppg);

Dale Thomas, F (4.4 ppg, 4.1 rpg).

Others lost: Jani Hiltunen, F (4.7 ppg); Marcus

Mason, F; Fernando Ortiz, G (13 ppg, 1.6 spg, 45 FG%);

Kevin White, G; Jonathan Whitworth, G (82 FT%).

Starters returning (3): Tommy Gunn, G, 6-3/So.

(9.2 ppg, 1.1 spg, 80 FT%); Iiro Tenngren, F, 6-8/Sr.

(9.6 ppg); D'Marius Wilkes, G, 5-9/Sr. (4.7 ppg).

Other returnees: Steven Jackson, F, 6-6/So.; Bryant Mitchell, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.6 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 54 FG%); Lee Nosse, C, 6-10/Sr. (RS); Demario Watson, F, 6-8/Sr. (59 FG%); Jermale Wilkerson, G, 5-10/So.

Top newcomers: Charles Anderson, F, 6-8/Fr.; Derek Glasper, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); John Humphrey, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Eric Parham, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC); William Phippen, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Nosse received an injury hardship year after playing only four games last season and should bolster a lineup that needs interior help. The team will count on Gunn's outside shooting, Tenngren inside and a lot of new JC recruits.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1989.

Site: Murfreesboro, Tenn. **Home court:** Murphy Center (11,520). **Website:** www.goblueraiders.com

WEST DIVISION

1. New Mexico State

National Rank: 91

Coach: Lou Henson (232-105, 13 years; 722-365 overall, 38 years; 19-20 NCAA Tournament record). **Starters lost (1):** Daveeno Hines, F (9.4 ppg, 9.1 rpg, 49 FG%, 1.1 spg, 1.1 bpg).

Others lost: Ryan Elmore, G; Tedrell Jones, F (46 FG%); Mikko Noopila, F (5 ppg, 39 3%); Zack Norvell, G (5.3 ppg).

Starters returning (4): Eric Channing, G, 6-4/Sr. (18.6 ppg, 48 FG%, 43 3%, 84 FT%, 1.1 spg); Brandon Mason, G, 6-5/Jr. (9.8 ppg, 38 3%, 1.4 spg); James Moore, F, 6-8/So. (11.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 53 FG%, 77 FT%, 1.9 bpg, 1.3 spg); Dennis Trammell, G, 6-3/So. (6.3 ppg, 37 3%).

Other returnees: Kelsey Crooks, F, 6-6/So.; Emanuel Dildy, G, 6-1/So. (4.8 ppg).

Top newcomers: James Fontenet, G, 6-2/Fr.; Jason Fontenet, G, 5-10/Fr.; Chris Jackson, C, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Will Morris, G, 6-4/So. (JC).

Outlook: The Aggies rode Channing to a strong finish last season, and he has a chance at NMSU's career scoring record this season. His touch and the steady improvement of Moore, the league's top freshman last season, should boost the team a step higher than last year's tie for second in the West.

Last league title: 1999 (Big West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Las Cruces, N.M. **Home court:** Pan American Center (13,071). **Website:** www.nmstatesports.com

2. South Alabama

National Rank: 157

Coach: Bob Weltlich (74-44, 4 years; 293-314 overall, 21 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (3): Ravonte Dantzler, G (12.7 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 78 FT%, 45 3%); Brett Gravitt, G (6.8 ppg); Virgil Stanesco, C (13.4 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 53 FG%).

Others lost: Ericson Beck, G (5.3 ppg); Michael Bollman, F.

Starters returning (2): Demetrice Williams, G, 6-1/Jr. (9.2 ppg); Henry Williams, F, 6-6/Jr. (7.7 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 56 FG%).

Other returnees: Matt Forget, C, 7-1/So.; Emmett Thomas, F, 6-4/So. (9.5 ppg, 46 FG%, 38 3%).

Top newcomers: Marques Ivy, F, 6-6/So. (JC); Adam

Salow, F, 6-8/Fr.; Larry Thompson, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Justin White, C, 6-9/Fr.; Travis Wright, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: It's rebuilding time for Weltlich, who will be without the inside-outside punch of all-league departees Stanesco and Dantzler and his best defensive stoppers. Henry Williams and Thomas are capable, and Demetrice Williams is solid at the point, but someone must mind the glass. The team might wind up counting on freshmen inside.

Last league title: 2001 (Sun Belt West).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Mobile, Ala. **Home court:** Mitchell Center (10,000). **Website:** www.usajaguars.com

3. Louisiana-Lafayette

National Rank: 210

Coach: Jessie Evans (72-51, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (3): Reggie DeGray, F (5.9 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 48 FG%); Lonnie Thomas, F (14.4 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 1 bpg, 52 FG%); Brett Smith, C (4.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 45 FG%).

Others lost: Orlando Butler, G (9.6 ppg, 1.3 spg); Jarret Evans, G; Billy Jones, G.

Starters returning (2): Blane Harmon, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.7 ppg, 75 FT%, 37 3%); Kenneth Lawrence, G, 6-0/Jr. (6.6 ppg, 36 3%).

Other returnees: Brad Boyd, F, 6-5/So. (5 ppg); Laurie Bridges, G, 6-5/So.; Anthony Johnson, G, 6-6/Jr. (15.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 1.3 spg, 55 FG%); Robert Jupiter, G, 6-3/Jr. (RS); Antoine Landry, G, 5-11/So.; Darryl Robins, F, 6-6/Jr. (4.5 ppg, 48 FG%); Shea Whiting, F, 6-6/Sr. (RS);

Top newcomers: Johnathan Byrd, F, 6-8/Fr.; Chris Cameron, C, 6-11/Fr.; David Hamilton, F, 6-10/Jr. (transfer/Auburn); Khadim Khandji, F, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Cedric Williams, F, 6-9/Fr.; Chris Williams, F, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/Missouri-Kansas City).

Outlook: The backcourt could be sensational, with Harmon granted an additional year of eligibility and continued improvement from cat-quick Lawrence. But it's the mercurial Johnson, easily the Sun Belt's dominant open-court force, who could explode in his swingman role. Auburn transfer Hamilton pulled his name out of the NBA draft and could make the team strong up front again.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Lafayette, La. **Home court:** Cajundome (12,800). **Website:** www.ragincajuns.com

4. Denver

National Rank: 245

Coach: Terry Carroll (1st year).

Starters lost (2): Arthur Ireland, G (10.4 ppg); Kevin Overton, F (9.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 50 FG%, 1.1 spg).

Others lost: Matt Paul, G (46 FG%).

Starters returning (3): Wahbah Carter, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 4 rpg); Sherman Rochell, F, 6-5/Sr. (7.1 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.3 spg); Steve Simmons, C, 6-9/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 9 rpg, 56 FG%).

Other returnees: B.J. Pratt, G, 6-2/Jr. (16.2 ppg, 40 3%, 81 FT%); Jamaal Ramey, F, 6-9/So.; Brett Starkey, C, 6-9/So.

Top newcomers: Erik Benzal, G, 6-1/Fr.; Taylor Lay, F, 6-7/Fr.; Leslie Richardson, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Adam Warren, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: After four years of building the program to respectability, coach Marty Fletcher was fired.

Former Iowa State assistant Carroll takes over a solid nucleus with four regulars returning. Pratt came off the bench last season but was the leading scorer on a team that was last in the Sun Belt in field-goal and free-throw shooting.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Denver. **Home court:** Magness Arena (7,200).

Website: denverpioneers.com

5. New Orleans

National Rank: 255

Coach: Monte Towe (1st year).

Starters lost (5): Ben Adams, G (10.5 ppg, 2.1 spg, 48 FG%, 48 3%); Clyde Ellis, F (11.3 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 52 FG%, 50 3%); Rickie Marlowe, G (6.9 ppg); Tory Walker, F (17 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.4 spg, 49 FG%, 77 FT%, 44 3%); Curtis Wilson, C (9.1 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 50 3%).

Others lost: Brett Meliet, G.

Starters returning: None.

Other returnees: John Ashaolu, F, 6-6/So. (57 FG%); Kyle Buggs, G, 6-3/So. (41 3%); Brian Hamilton, G, 6-3/So.; Shelton Little, F/G, 6-4/So.; A.J. Meredith, G, 6-0/So. (42 3%); Jason Rackley-Mann, F/C, 6-8/Sr.; Corey Sanders, C, 6-11/Sr.; Ben Wilson, G, 6-3/So.

Top newcomers: Victor Brown, F, 6-8/Fr.; Nerljus Lissauskas, C, 6-10/Jr.; Hector Romero, F, 6-7/Jr.; Johnell Smith, G, 6-2/Jr.; Andriy Sukhotin, F/C, 6-11/Jr.

Outlook: The Privateers lost five seniors who started at least 15 games and have only three returning upperclassmen. Still, Meredith, Buggs and Wilson got extensive time in the team's 10-4 push to end the regular season. The front line needs help, but the team has the league's No. 1 recruiting class.

Last league title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: New Orleans. **Home court:** Lakefront Arena (10,000). **Website:** www.unoprivateers.com

6. North Texas

National Rank: 305

Coach: Johnny Jones (1st year, 15-16 overall).

Starters lost (1): Bryan Lucas, F (12 ppg, 7.5 rpg).

Others lost: Jeremy McFall, G; Josh Richardson, F (6.1 ppg).

Starters returning (4): Chris Davis, G, 6-5/Jr. (18 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 1.3 spg); Kenneth Mangrum, G, 6-4/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 1.3 spg 48 FG%); Jason Miller, F, 6-9/Jr. (12.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 49 FG%, 75 FT%, 1.4 bpg); Terence White, G, 6-1/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 4 apg, 1.2 spg).

Other returnees: Wes Allen, G, 6-3/Jr.; Jerome Rogers, G, 5-10/So. (5.2 ppg, 78 FT%); Will Smith, F, 6-7/So. (57 FG%).

Top newcomers: Justin Barnett, C, 6-10/Fr.;

Jermaine Green, F, 6-7/Jr.; Lee Green, G, 6-3/Jr.

Outlook: Davis is one of the league's premier players and scorers, but he can't do it all. Last year, the Mean Green gave up 88 points per game and turned the ball over at a frightening rate—three more per game than anyone else in the Sun Belt.

Last league title: 1988.

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Denton, Texas. **Home court:** Super Pit (10,000). **Website:** www.unt.edu/meangreen

Schedules

Ark.-Little Rock

N16 at UMass
N19 Arkansas Tech
N21 at Mississippi St.
N24 Ark.-Pine Bluff
N27 at SE Mo. St.
N30 at Saint Louis

D3 Central Arkansas
D5 Austin Peay
D8 at Colorado St.
D15 at Austin Peay
D18 Morgan State
D21 at Grambling St.
D30 at Florida Int'l
J3 North Texas
J5 Denver

J10 at Arkansas St.
J14 at New Orleans
J19 South Alabama
J24 at W. Kentucky
J26 at Mid. Tenn.
F2 Arkansas State
F7 West. Kentucky
F9 Middle Tenn.
F14 at New Mex. St.

F16 at UL-Lafayette
F19 So. Mississippi
F23 Florida Int'l
Arkansas State
N17 TBA
N19 TBA
N21 Ark.-Pine Bluff
N24 Nevada

N26 at Jackson State
N28 at Miss. Valley St.
D1 So. Mississippi
D5 at Air Force
D8 at Mississippi St.
D10 Miss. Valley St.
D19-21 Rainbow Cla.
D28-29 Koch Isl. Inv.
J3 Denver

J5 North Texas
J10 Ark.-Little Rock
J12 at S. Alabama
J16 at Florida Int'l
J16 New Orleans
J19 at Middle Tenn.
J24 at W. Kentucky
J26 at Ark.-L. Rock
F2 Middle Tenn.

F9 W. Kentucky
F14 at UL-Lafayette
F16 at N. Mexico St.
F21 Florida Int'l
Denver
N16 Montana Tech
N18 at Air Force
N26 Wyoming

N30 at Manhattan
D6 at Morris Brown
D9 at Saint Louis
D12 Air Force
D15 Colorado State
D21 at Texas A&M-CC
D27 New Mexico St.
D30 at Drake
J3 at Arkansas St.

(Sun Belt continued)

J5 at Ark.-L. Rock	J13 at Denver	F2 at New Orleans	F2 Florida Int'l	F9 West. New Mex.	F7 at North Texas	F20 at Bet.-Cookman	F23 at S. Alabama
J7 Morris Brown	J16 Arkansas State	F7 Centenary	F4 Texas-Pan Amer.	F11 at Texas-Pan Am.	F10 at Denver	F23 North Texas	Western Ky.
J13 Florida Int'l	J23 South Alabama	F9 at Florida Int'l	F7 at Arkansas St.	F14 Ark.-Little Rock	F16 South Alabama	North Texas	N15-18 NABC Classic
J17 North Texas	J26 New Orleans	F11 at North Texas	F9 at Ark.-L. Rock	F16 Arkansas State	F21 North Texas	N16 SW Missouri St.	N20 Evansville
J19 West. Kentucky	J31 at W. Kentucky	F14 Arkansas State	F16 Denver	F20 at UTEP	F23 Denver	N24 at Oklahoma St.	N24 Murray State
J24 at New Mex. St.	F2 at Middle Tenn.	F16 Ark.-Little Rock	F23 at W. Kentucky	F23 at UL-Lafayette	South Alabama	N27 at Lipscomb	N27 at Creighton
J26 at UL-Lafayette	F6 at New Mex. St.	F18 at Denver	*at Jackson, Tenn.	New Orleans	N18 at Louisville	D1 at Houston	D2 at Vanderbilt
F2 at North Texas	F9 UL-Lafayette	New Mexico St.	New Mexico St.	N13-21 Guardians Cl.	N28 SE Louisiana	D4 SMU	D5 at Akron
F5 Texas A&M-CC	F13 at UNLV	N17 at Tex.-Arlington	N17 Bryan	N17 Rollins	D1 at Mississippi St.	D8 at Baylor	D8 at Austin Peay
F7 South Alabama	F21 at Arkansas St.	N19 Alcorn State	N19 at Jacksonville	N19 at Jacksonville	D5 So. Mississippi	D15 at Kansas State	D15 West Alabama
F10 New Orleans	F23 at Ark.-L. Rock	N24 San Diego State	N24 at Nicholls State	N24 at Nicholls State	D12 Bet.-Cookman	D19 Lipscomb	D19 Creighton
F14 at So. Alabama	UL-Lafayette	N28 Texas Tech	N26 Norfolk State	N26 Norfolk State	D18 at Auburn	D21 Tennessee Tech	D22 at Southern Miss
F16 at Middle Tenn.	N17 McNeese State	D1 UTEP	N29 at Oklahoma St.	N29 at Oklahoma St.	D21 Gardner-Webb	D23 at TCU	D28 at New Orleans
F18 UL-Lafayette	N19 at Bradley	D5 New Mexico	D1 at SW Mo. St.	D1 at SW Mo. St.	D28 Middle Tenn.	D29 New Mexico St.	D30 at So. Alabama
F23 at New Orleans	N24 TBA	D8 Washington	D5 at Tulane	D5 at Tulane	D30 W. Kentucky	J3 at Ark.-L. Rock	J2 at Florida Int'l
Florida Int'l	D4 at LSU	D6 Tenn.-Martin*	D16 at New Mexico	D8 at SE Louisiana	J3 at UL-Lafayette	J5 at Arkansas St.	J5 Austin Peay
N16-17 Tip-Off Classic	D8 TBA	D8 Tennessee State	D20-22 Pearl Har. Cl.	D18 LSU	J5 at N. Mexico St.	J10 Florida Int'l	J10 UL-Lafayette
N20 Florida Tech	D11 Bradley	D15 at Tex.-Pan Am.	D27 at Denver	D22 at Florida	J9 Valdosta State	J12 Tex. A&M-Kgs'v'le	J13 New Mexico St.
N24 Princeton	D13 Loyola (N.O.)	D19 at East Carolina	D29 at North Texas	D28 W. Kentucky	J12 Arkansas State	J17 at Denver	J16 at Middle Tenn.
N26 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	D17 at Texas Tech	D28 at S. Alabama	J3 New Orleans	D30 Middle Tenn.	J17 New Orleans	J19 Middle Tenn.	J19 at Denver
N30 at Auburn	D20 TBA	D30 at New Orleans	J5 South Alabama	J3 at N. Mexico St.	J19 at Ark.-L. Rock	J24 at UL-Lafayette	J24 Ark.-Little Rock
D3 at Miami	D28-29 Arizona St. Tr.	J5 at Florida Int'l	J10 at Middle Tenn.	J5 at UL-Lafayette	J23 at Florida Int'l	J26 at N. Mexico St.	J26 Arkansas State
D8 at West Virginia	J3 South Alabama	J12 at W. Kentucky	J12 at W. Kentucky	J12 Ark.-Little Rock	J26 Ga. Southw'strn	J30 St. Edwards	J31 Florida Int'l
D20-22 San Juan S.O.	J5 New Orleans	J10 UL-Lafayette	J14 E. New Mexico	J17 at S. Alabama	J31 UL-Lafayette	F2 Denver	F3 Morris Brown
D27-28 Holiday Classic	J10 at W. Kentucky	J16 W. Kentucky	J19 UL-Lafayette	J19 at Arkansas St.	F2 New Mexico St.	F7 New Orleans	F7 at Ark.-L. Rock
D30 Ark.-Little Rock	J12 at Middle Tenn.	J19 at North Texas	J24 Denver	J24 at Tex. A&M-CC	F7 at Denver	F9 South Alabama	F9 at Arkansas St.
J2 West. Kentucky	J19 at N. Mexico St.	J21 at Tennessee	J26 North Texas	J26 at Florida Int'l	F9 at North Texas	F11 UL-Lafayette	F16 North Texas
J5 Middle Tenn.	J24 North Texas	J24 Arkansas State	J31 at New Orleans	J31 New Mexico St.	F14 Denver	F16 at W. Kentucky	F19 Kentucky State
J7 at Pennsylvania	J26 Denver	J26 Ark.-Little Rock	F2 at S. Alabama	F2 UL-Lafayette	F16 at New Orleans	F21 at New Orleans	F23 Middle Tenn.
J10 at North Texas	J31 at S. Alabama	J31 at IUPUI-Ft. W'ye	F6 Florida Int'l				

METRO ATLANTIC

1. Iona

National Rank: 86

Coach: Jeff Ruland (58-36, 3 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (3): Phil Grant, G (8.5 ppg); Earl Johnson, G (12.8 ppg, 50 FG%, 47 3%); Nakiea Miller, C (15.1 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 3.1 bpg, 67 FG%).

Others lost: Leland Matthews, F (83 FT%).

Starters returning (2): Greg Jenkins, C, 6-9/So. (8.6 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 58 FG%); Dyree Wilson, F/G, 6-5/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 4.7 rpg).

Other returnees: Kenya Carruthers, F, 6-5/Jr.; Courtney Fields, G/F, 6-9/Jr. (7.7 ppg, 5.7 rpg); Leland Norris, G, 6-2/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 41 FG%, 75 FT%); Randy Williams, G, 6-5/So.; Maceo Wofford, G, 5-10/Jr. (5.5 ppg, 1.6 spg, 77 FT%, 37 3%).

Top newcomers: Ramel Allen, C, 6-11/Jr.; Solomon Brown, G, 6-2/Fr.; Charles Henson, F, 6-9/So. (Prop 48); Eddie Starks, G, 6-2/So. (Prop 48).

Outlook: Yes, losing three starters who averaged a combined 36 points and 15 rebounds is a harsh blow. But Iona still is a good bet to post the conference's first three-peat since La Salle did it from 1988-90. Fields, Jenkins and Allen form a solid front line. Wilson will battle for MAAC player of the year.

Last league title: 2001 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: New Rochelle, N.Y. **Home court:** Mulcahy Center (2,611). **Website:** www.iona.edu

2. Niagara

National Rank: 137

Coach: Joe Mihalich (49-37, 3 years).

Starters lost (1): Demond Stewart, G (19.6 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 1.7 spg).

Others lost: None

Starters returning (4): Shey Cohen, C, 6-8/Sr. (4.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Daryl Greene, G, 6-1/Sr. (10.6

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Iona*	12	6	22	11
Siena	12	6	20	11
Niagara	12	6	15	13
Marist	11	7	17	13
Rider	11	7	16	12
Manhattan	11	7	14	15
Canisius	9	9	20	11
Fairfield	8	10	12	16
Loyola (Md.)	2	16	6	23
St. Peter's	2	16	4	24

*Lost to Mississippi in NCAA Midwest first round.

ppg, 5 apg, 1.1 spg); James Reaves, F, 6-8/So. (9.3 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 75 3%); Michael Schmidt, F, 6-5/Sr. (14.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.4 spg).

Other returnees: Rhossi Carron, G, 5-10/Jr. (4 ppg, 81 FT%); Tremell Darden, G, 6-4/So. (8.4 ppg, 47 FG%); Christos Defoudis, F, 6-8/Sr. (5.3 ppg, 47 FG%); Luis Villafane, C, 6-10/Jr. (52 FG%).

Top newcomers: David Brooks, G, 6-3/Fr.; Alvin Cruz, G, 6-1/Fr.; Juan Mendez, F, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: The Purple Eagles have a legitimate chance of making the NAAs for the first time in ages if Greene, plagued by injuries last season, reverts to the form he showed as a sophomore.

Last league title: 2001 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1970.

Site: Niagara, N.Y. **Home court:** Gallagher Center (2,400). **Website:** www.niagara.edu/sports

3. Canisius

National Rank: 149

Coach: Mike MacDonald (58-57, 4 years).

Mike Harrington, The Buffalo News

Predictions

1. Iona*
2. Niagara
3. Canisius
4. Manhattan
5. Rider
6. Marist
7. Siena
8. Fairfield
9. Loyola (Md.)
10. St. Peter's

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brian Dux, Canisius	6-2	170	Jr.
G	Sean Kennedy, Marist	6-2	170	Sr.
F	Dyree Wilson, Iona	6-5	210	Sr.
F	Mario Porter, Rider	6-6	225	Sr.
F	Sam Spann, Fairfield	6-5	220	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Daryl Greene, Niagara	6-1	185	Sr.
G/F	Michael Schmidt, Niagara	6-5	205	Sr.
F	Dave Holmes, Manhattan	6-7	225	So.
F/C	Michael Buhrman, Siena	6-9	235	Sr.
C	Greg Jenkins, Iona	6-9	250	So.

Player of the Year

Mario Porter, Rider

Newcomer of the Year

Deng Gai, F/C, Fairfield

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Toby Foster, Canisius

Best rebounder: Sam Spann, Fairfield

Best playmaker: Sean Kennedy, Marist

Best defender: R.J. Wicks, Rider

Best dunker: Mario Porter, Rider

Most versatile: Dyree Wilson, Iona

Most flamboyant: Von Damien Green, Manhattan

Best NBA prospect: None

Starters lost (3): Clive Bentick, G (13.6 ppg, 4 apg, 1.4 spg, 41 3%); Darren Fenn, C (13.8 ppg, 8 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 50 FG%); Tory Jefferson, F (9.5 ppg, 6.3 rpg). **Others lost:** Jay Keys, G.

Starters returning (2): Brian Dux, G, 6-2/Jr. (9.9 ppg, 4.1 apg, 79 FT%, 38 3%); Toby Foster, F, 6-6/Jr. (10.2 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 44 3%).

Other returnees: Andrew Bush, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (10 ppg, 56 FG%); Dewitt Doss, G, 5-10/So.; Jon Ferris, F, 6-7/So.; Richard Hampton, F, 6-7/So.; Hodari Mallory, F, 6-3/Jr. (6.9 ppg, 39 3%); Tom Perkovich, F, 6-5/Jr.; Damon Young, G, 6-2/Sr.

Top newcomers: Kevin Downey, G, 6-3/Fr.; Luke Hedges, F/C, 6-10/Fr.; Richard Jones, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; Chris Ravello, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: The Griffs pulled a complete reversal last season, going from 20 losses to 20 wins. Things won't be as easy this year, but they have a dead-eye bunch of shooters led by Foster, a gritty point guard in Dux and a super sub in Mallory.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Buffalo, N.Y. **Home court:** Koessler Center (1,800). **Website:** www.canisius.edu/athletics

4. Manhattan

National Rank: 168

Coach: Bobby Gonzalez (26-30, 2 years).

Starters lost (2): Durelle Brown, F (17.8 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 48 FG%); Michael Johnson, G (7.7 ppg).

Others lost: Jerry Clark, G.

Starters returning (3): Von Damien Green, G, 5-10/Sr. (9.8 ppg, 5.7 apg, 1.8 spg); Justin Jackette, G, 6-2/Jr. (11.5 ppg, 1.5 spg, 88 FT%); Jared Johnson, F, 6-7/Jr. (6.7 ppg, 1.2 spg, 49 FG%).

Other returnees: Willie Haynes, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (53 FG%); Dave Holmes, F, 6-7/So. (9 ppg, 6 rpg); Bruce Seals, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (8.4 ppg, 1 spg, 85 FT%).

Top newcomers: Jason Benton, F, 6-6/So. (Prop 48); Luis Flores, G, 6-2/So. (transfer/Rutgers); Justin Gatling, G, 6-0/Fr.; Kareem Grant, F, 6-6/Fr.; Charus Moore, F, 6-7/Fr.; Darnell Tyler, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Jaspers, who play at a frenetic pace, are one of the MAAC's top sleepers. Green and Jackette will vie for all-conference honors. Holmes started slowly last season before showing why he was one of the top recruits in MAAC history.

Last league title: 1995.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Riverdale, N.Y. **Home court:** Draddy Gym (3,000). **Website:** www.manhattan.edu/athletics

5. Rider

National Rank: 185

Coach: Don Harnum (62-52, 4 years).

Starters lost (2): Michael Crawford, G (10 ppg, 3 apg, 84 FT%); Jon McClark, C (12.8 ppg, 8.6 rpg).

Others lost: Alex Isogohohi, F; Sam Rotsaert, G.

Starters returning (3): Mario Porter, F, 6-6/Sr. (19.2 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.6 spg, 53 FG%); R.J. Wicks, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (4 ppg, 1.1 spg); Mike Wilson, G, 6-2/Jr. (6.7 ppg, 38 3%, 79 FT%).

Other returnees: Junior Curtis, G, 6-3/Jr. (4.8 ppg); Robert Reed, C, 6-10/Jr.; Mike Scott, G, 6-4/Sr. (7.2 ppg); Tank Wahlmann, C, 6-9/Jr.; Laurence Young, G, 6-3/So. (5.4 ppg).

Top newcomers: Rich Baker, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Vitor Goncalves, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Jerry Johnson, G, 6-0/Fr.; Arnel Minyem, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Robert Taylor, G, 6-2/Fr.

Outlook: Porter, the MAAC's top returning scorer, has plenty of help as the Broncos have a deep backcourt (led by Curtis, Scott and Wilson) and a top defensive specialist in Wicks. Goncalves could provide a boost for a thin front line.

Last league title: 1994 (Northeast).

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Lawrenceville, N.J. **Home court:** Alumni Gym (1,650). **Website:** www.gobroncs.com

6. Marist

National Rank: 192

Coach: Dave Magarity (215-212, 15 years; 275-288 overall, 20 years).

Starters lost (2): Marius Janisius, F (7.9 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 53 FG%); Drew Samuels, F (15.4 ppg, 8 rpg).

Others lost: Blake Sonne, G (5.9 ppg, 83 FT%); Donald Vale, F (5.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 40 3%).

Starters returning (3): Nick Eppehimer, G, 6-7/Jr. (7.4 ppg, 3.4 rpg); Sean Kennedy, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 8.1 apg, 33 3%); Rick Smith, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 41 FG%, 33 3%).

Other returnees: Steve Castleberry, C, 6-11/So.; Mark Prosser, F, 6-5/Sr.; Eric Sosler, G, 6-3/So.; Matt Tullis, F-C, 6-9/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 48 FG%); Sherman Whittenburg, G, 6-1/Jr. (5 ppg); Dennis Young, F, 6-8/So.

Top newcomers: McDavid Bennett, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Brandon Ellerbee, G, 5-11/Fr.; Jared Hunsacker, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Eric Siegrist, Fr.; Jack Watson, Fr.

Outlook: Kennedy will vie for the Division I assist title after finishing third last year. Smith doesn't get the same recognition, but MAAC coaches know all about him. Hunsacker should help immediately.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: Poughkeepsie, N.Y. **Home court:** McCann Center (3,944). **Website:** www.marist.edu

7. Siena

National Rank: 207

Coach: Rob Lanier (1st year).

Starters lost (2): Scott Knapp, G (13 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 41 3%); Isaiah Stewart, G (7.5 ppg, 3.7 apg).

Others lost: Rob Connors, F; Carmen Maciariello, G (3.5 ppg); Brian Scalzo, G.

Starters returning (3): Dwayne Archbold, G, 6-5/Sr. (14.9 ppg, 6 rpg, 41 3%); Andy Cavo, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 42 3%, 82 FT%); Justin Miller, F, 6-8/So. (8.2 ppg, 4 rpg).

Other returnees: Austin Andrews, F, 6-9/So.; Michael Buhrman, F, 6-9/Jr. (4.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg); James Clinton, F, 6-9/Sr. (7.2 ppg, 57 FG%, 86 FT%); J.J. Harvey, G, 6-4/So.; Prosper Karangwa, G, 6-7/Jr. (7.8 ppg); Dale Taylor, C, 6-9/Sr. (4.3 ppg, 4.1 rpg).

Top newcomers: Cantrell Fletcher, G, 5-7/Fr.; Gary Holle, F, 6-8/Fr.; Tommy Mitchell, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS); Brent Sniezyk, F/C, 6-10/Fr.

Outlook: Graduation hit this program hard the last two years. The run-and-gun of past seasons gave way to a more defensive approach last year, and that will have to continue now that Knapp, one of the top 3-point men in MAAC history, is gone.

Last league title: 2001 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Albany, N.Y. **Home court:** Pepsi Arena (15,500). **Website:** www.sienasaints.com

8. Fairfield

National Rank: 221

Coach: Tim O'Toole (38-46, 3 years).

Starters lost (3): Jermaine Clark, G (11.6 ppg); Boo Farrow, G; Chris Rivers, F (14.4 ppg, 4.5 rpg).

Others lost: Sunday Eniojukan, C.

Starters returning (2): Sam Spann, F, 6-5/Sr. (15 ppg, 9.5 rpg, 54 FG%, 1.7 spg); Rob Thomson, C, 6-10/So. (8 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 50 FG%, 2 bpg).

Other returnees: Nick Delfico, F, 6-5/Jr. (5.1 ppg); Oscar Garcia, F, 6-8/Jr. (5.6 ppg); Jeremy Logon,

G/F, 6-5/Jr. (11.8 ppg, 42 3%); Keith Urgo, G, 5-9/Sr.; Kyle Walsh, G, 6-2/Sr.

Top newcomers: Ajou Deng, F/C, 6-11/Jr.; (transfer/Connecticut); Brad Feleccia, F, 6-7/Fr.; Deng Gai, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Tyquawn Goode, G, 5-8/Fr.; Kudjo Sogadzi, G, 6-1/Fr.

Outlook: The Stags enter a new era, as home games go off campus. Syracuse transfer Spann, who burst on the MAAC scene last year, should have help from UConn transfer Ajou Deng and Sudanese freshman Deng Gai, who are cousins.

Last league title: 1996 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Fairfield, Conn. **Home court:** Arena at Harbor Yards (9,500). **Website:** www.fairfieldstags.com

9. Loyola (Md.)

National Rank: 265

Coach: Scott Hicks (6-23, 1 year; 137-118 overall, 9 years).

Starters lost (3): Brian Carroll, C (10.3 ppg, 10.6 rpg, 1.9 bpg, 47 FG%); Apostolis Nasiou, F (9 ppg, 5 rpg); John Reimold, F (15.5 ppg, 5 rpg, 46 FG%, 43 3%, transferred/Bowling Green).

Others lost: Dan Anderson, G; Brant Mack, G; Ron Parmer, F/C.

Starters returning (2): B.J. Davis, G, 6-0/So. (12.4 ppg, 1.3 spg, 40 3%); Damien Jenifer, G, 6-0/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 4.4 apg, 1.9 spg).

Other returnees: Ryan Dickey, G, 6-0/So.; Delonnie Southall, F, 6-8/Jr. (50 3%); Donovan Thomas, F, 6-7/So.

Top newcomers: Bernard Allen, G, 6-6/Fr.; Lindbergh Chatman, F, 6-6/So. (transfer/Robert Morris); Jim Chivers, F, 6-8/Fr.; Sean Corrigan, F, 6-10/Fr.; Dennis Desmond, 6-0/So. (transfer/New Mexico State); Lucio Jordan, G, 6-2/Fr.; Irakli Nijaradze, C, 6-10/Fr.

Outlook: Reimold's decision to transfer to Bowling Green and Carroll's graduation mean Loyola remains in a rebuilding mode. There are seven newcomers on the roster, including two 6-10 freshmen—Corrigan and Nijaradze—who could provide a rare inside presence for Loyola.

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Reitz Arena (3,000). **Website:** www.loyola.edu/athletics

10. St. Peter's

National Rank: 303

Coach: Bob Leckie (4-24, 1 year).

Starters lost (2): Rodney Rodgers, C (14.2 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 2.6 apg); Keith Sellers, F (18.7 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 32 3%, 75 FT%).

Others lost: Kalief Allen, G (4.8 ppg); Daryl Boykins, G (4.3 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 2.6 apg); Antoine Orr, G (6.8 ppg, 2.8 apg, 35 3%, 80 FT%).

Starters returning (3): Nate Brown, G, 6-0/Sr. (5.5 ppg, 2.5 apg); Regis Devonish, G, 6-5/So. (5.1 ppg); Melvin Robinson, F, 6-5/Jr. (8.9 ppg, 4 rpg).

Other returnees: Amir Ali, C, 6-11/So.; Marvin Benjamin, F, 6-7/Sr. (4.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Kamaal McQueen, F, 6-5/Sr. (RS).

Top newcomers: Andrew Dudley, C, 6-11/Jr. (transfer/Boston College); Corey Hinnant, G, 6-1/Fr. (RS); Corien John, F/G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Mike McKie, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Abdel Raho, F/G, 6-8/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Graduation losses have killed a team that was already one of the MAAC's weakest-scoring clubs and its most brutal defensive outfit.

Last league title: 1987.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Jersey City, N.J. **Home court:** Yanitelli Center (3,200). **Website:** www.spc.edu

(Metro Atlantic continued)

Schedules**Canisius**

N16 Cornell
N24 Buffalo
D1 at St. John's
D7 Rider
D9 at Iona
D15 St. Bonaventure
D22 Notre Dame
D28-29 Arizona St. Trn.
J3 Fairfield
J5 Bucknell
J7 Marist
J9 at Morgan State
J11 at Rider
J19 Siena
J21 at St. Peter's
J26 Loyola (Md.)
J28 at Siena
J30 Iona
F1 at Loyola (Md.)
F6 St. Peter's
F8 Manhattan
F11 at Marist
F13 at Manhattan
F16 Niagara
F18 at Fairfield
F23 at Niagara
Fairfield
N16 at Harvard
N20 at Michigan
N27 Rhode Island
D6 Iona

D8 DePaul
D11 St. Francis (N.Y.)
D28 at UNC Wilm.
J3 at Canisius
J5 at American
J8 St. Peter's
J10 at Manhattan
J12 at Niagara
J14 Rider
J18 at Iona
J20 at Loyola (Md.)
J23 Loyola (Md.)
J26 at Marist
J29 Niagara
F2 Manhattan
F6 at St. John's
F8 at Rider
F10 Siena
F12 Charleston So.
F14 Marist
F16 at Siena
F18 Canisius
F23 at St. Peter's
Iona
N17 Akron
N20 at Beth. Cookman
N24 at Rhode Island
N28 Fordham
D1 Hofstra
D4 at Wagner
D6 at Fairfield
D9 Canisius
D19-22 Rainbow Cl.
D27-28 ECAC Hol. Fes.

J3 Siena
J5 at St. Peter's
J9 Rider
J13 at Loyola (Md.)
J15 at Marist
J18 Fairfield
J21 at Siena
J25 Manhattan
J30 at Canisius
F1 at Niagara
F3 St. Peter's
F6 Marist
F10 Loyola (Md.)
F13 at Rider
F20 Niagara
F22 at Manhattan
Loyola (Md.)
N17-18 Battle of Balt.
N26 at Fair. Dickinson
D1 at Rutgers
D3 Northeastern
D6 at Niagara
D9 St. Peter's
D15 at Mt. St. Mary's
D22 at C. Conn. St.
D30 at Delaware
J2 Manhattan
J4 at Santa Clara
J10 Siena
J13 Iona
J17 at Rider
J20 Fairfield
J23 at Fairfield
J26 at Canisius

J30 at Marist
F1 Canisius
F3 Marist
F7 at Siena
F10 at Iona
F13 Niagara
F16 at St. Peter's
F18 at Manhattan
F23 Rider
Manhattan
N23 Holy Cross
N26 at Long Island
N30 Denver
D3 Hartford
D6 at St. Peter's
D8 at St. John's
D21 Hofstra
D27-28 ECAC Hol. Fes.
J2 at Loyola (Md.)
J7 Niagara
J10 Fairfield
J12 at Marist
J17 at Siena
J19 Rider
J22 Marist
J25 at Iona
J30 St. Peter's
F2 at Fairfield
F5 Siena
F8 at Canisius
F10 at Niagara
F13 Canisius
F15 at Rider
F18 Loyola (Md.)

F22 Iona
Marist
N16-17 Pepsi Classic
N21 South Alabama
N24 at Massachusetts
N29 at Lafayette
D1 at Bowling Green
D6 Siena
D9 at Rider
D22 Central Florida
D28 LaSalle
D30 at Army
J2 at St. Peter's
J5 Niagara
J7 at Canisius
J12 Manhattan
J15 Iona
J17 at Niagara
J22 at Manhattan
J26 Fairfield
J30 Loyola (Md.)
F3 at Loyola (Md.)
F6 at Iona
F11 Canisius
F14 at Fairfield
F17 Rider
F21 St. Peter's
F23 at Siena
Niagara
N17 George Mason
N19 Buffalo
N24 at St. Bonav.
N29-30 Phoenix Cl.
D6 Loyola (Md.)

D8 at Siena
D11 St. John's
D20-22 San Juan S.O.
D29 at Drexel
J2 at Akron
J5 at Marist
J7 at Manhattan
J12 Fairfield
J17 Marist
J19 at St. Peter's
J24 Rider
J26 Siena
J29 at Fairfield
F1 Iona
F3 at Rider
F8 St. Peter's
F10 Manhattan
F13 at Loyola (Md.)
F16 at Canisius
F20 at Iona
F23 Canisius
Rider
N17 at Monmouth
N20 Bucknell
N24 Drexel
N28 at Princeton
D1 Towson State
D5 Seton Hall
D7 at Canisius
D9 Marist
D15 Delaware
D20 at Northeastern
J2 at Lafayette
J5 at Siena

J9 at Iona
J11 Canisius
J14 at Fairfield
J17 Loyola (Md.)
J19 at Manhattan
J24 at Niagara
J27 St. Peter's
F1 at St. Peter's
F3 Niagara
F8 Fairfield
F13 Iona
F15 Manhattan
F17 at Marist
F20 Siena
F23 at Loyola (Md.)
Siena
N24 at Fordham
N27 Albany
D1 at Cleveland St.
D4 Toledo
D6 at Marist
D8 Niagara
D11 Hartford
D20 St. Bonaventure
D29 at Rice
D31 at Xavier
J3 at Iona
J5 Rider
J10 at Loyola (Md.)
J13 St. Peter's
J17 Manhattan
J19 at Canisius
J21 Iona
J26 at Niagara

J28 Canisius
F5 at Manhattan
F7 Loyola (Md.)
F10 at Fairfield
F14 at St. Peter's
F16 Fairfield
F20 at Rider
F23 Marist
St. Peter's
N16-17 Fla. Int'l Trn.
N21 at St. Fran. (N.Y.)
N25 at Boston U.
N27 at Lafayette
D1 at NC Greensboro
D6 Manhattan
D9 at Loyola (Md.)
D10 TBA
D12 at Seton Hall
D14 Monmouth
J2 Marist
J5 Iona
J8 at Fairfield
J13 at Siena
J19 Niagara
J21 Canisius
J27 at Rider
J30 at Manhattan
F1 Rider
F3 at Iona
F6 at Canisius
F8 at Niagara
F14 Siena
F16 Loyola (Md.)
F21 at Marist
F23 Fairfield

BIG WEST

1. UC Santa Barbara**National Rank: 87**

Coach: Bob Williams (42-42, 3 years; 231-142, 13 yrs.).
Starters lost: None.

Others lost: LaRon Bryant, G (8.3 ppg, 35.3%); Julianio Jordani, F (4.2 ppg); LaDonte King, G.
Starters returning (5): Jacoby Atako, G, 6-1/So. (4.7 ppg); Brandiinn Fullove, G, 6-4/So. (12.2 ppg, 5 rpg, 83 FT%, 38.3%); Mark Hull, F, 6-7/Jr. (13.9 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 80 FT%, 36.3%); Nick Jones, G, 6-4/So. (9.8 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Mike Vukovich, F, 6-9/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 57 FG%).

Other returnees: Casey Cook, F, 6-8/So. (4.1 ppg); Adama Ndiaye, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (RS); J.J. Todd, C, 6-11/So.; B.J. Ward, G, 6-1/Jr. (4.5 ppg, 1.4 spg, 46 FG%).

Top newcomers: Cecil Brown, G, 6-4/Fr.; Chris Newell, G, 6-4/Fr.; Chrismen Oliver, G, 5-8/Fr.; Scott Rainey, F, 6-10/Fr.; Bryan Whitehead, F, 6-8/So. (transfer/Washington State).

Outlook: The Gauchos knocked on the door the last few seasons. This may be the year they come crashing through. Five starters return, including two Big West second-team picks (Hull and Vukovich) and two all-freshman picks (Fullove and Jones). Plus—and this is big—Ndiaye returns. He started two seasons ago, averaging 9.3 points, 7.5 boards and 1.7 blocks, but missed last season with a broken left ring finger.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Santa Barbara, Calif. **Home court:** Thunderdome (6,000). **Website:** www.ucsbgauchos.com

2. UC Irvine**National Rank: 107**

Coach: Pat Douglass (54-47, 4 yrs; 430-175, 20 yrs).

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
UC Irvine+	15	1	25	5
Utah State*	13	3	28	6
Long Beach State	10	6	18	13
UC Santa Barbara	9	7	13	15
Pacific	8	8	18	12
Boise State%	8	8	17	14
Cal State Fullerton	3	13	5	23
Cal Poly	3	13	9	19
Idaho	3	13	6	21

Starters lost (3): Malachi Edmond, G (8.6 ppg, 1.6 spg, 80 FT%); Sean Jackson, G (9.3 ppg, 46.3%); Ben Jones, F (11.6 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 48 FG%, 39.3%).

Others lost: Albert Miller, G (78.6 FT%).

Starters returning (2): Jerry Green, G, 6-3/Sr. (19 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.4 spg, 45 FG%, 43.3%); Adam Parada, C, 7-0/So. (7.6 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.4 bpg).

Other returnees: Aras Baskauskas, G, 6-3/So. (50.3%); J.R. Christ, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (4.4 ppg, 52 FG%); Mike Hood, G, 6-4/Jr. (RS); Dave Korfman, C, 7-2/Sr.; Matt Okoro, F, 6-7/So. (RS); Stanislav Zuzak, F, 6-10/So. (4.9 ppg, 37.3%).

Top newcomers: Ryan Codi, C, 6-11/Fr.; Jeff Gloger, G, 6-3/Fr.; Jordan Harris, F, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/Colgate); DeVaughn Peace, G, 6-3/Fr.; Ross Schraeder, G, 6-5/Fr.

Outlook: The Anteaters' biggest offseason news was Green announcing his return for his senior year. He was last season's Big West Player of the Year and led the Anteaters to their first conference championship.

Gordon Verrell, Long Beach Press-Telegram

Predictions

1. UC Santa Barbara*
2. UC Irvine
3. Utah State
4. Long Beach State
5. Cal State Northridge
6. Pacific
7. UC Riverside
8. Cal Poly
9. Cal State Fullerton
10. Idaho

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Conference**First Team**

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tony Brown, Utah State	6-3	195	Sr.
G	Jerry Green, UC Irvine	6-3	190	Sr.
F	Adama Ndiaye, UCSB	6-9	235	Sr.
C	Travis Reed, Long Beach State	6-8	250	Sr.
F	Mark Miller, UC Riverside	6-6	215	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ron Johnson, Long Beach State	6-0	190	Sr.
F/G	Brandiinn Fullove, UCSB	6-4	210	So.
C	Vannie Dennis, Cal Poly	6-7	265	So.
F	Stanislav Zuzak, UC Irvine	6-10	220	So.
F	Vili Morton, UC Riverside	6-9	225	So.

Player of the Year

Jerry Green, UC Irvine

Newcomer of the Year

Desmond Penigar, F, Utah State

Honor Roll**Best shooter:** Jerry Green, UC Irvine**Best rebounder:** Travis Reed, Long Beach State**Best playmaker:** Maurice McLemore, Pacific**Best defender:** Ron Johnson, Long Beach State**Best dunker:** Adam Parada, UC Irvine**Most versatile:** Tony Brown, Utah State**Most flamboyant:** Lemi Williams, Long Beach State**Best NBA prospect:** Travis Reed, Long Beach State

The other starter returning is Parada. Three others—Zuzak, Baskauskas and Christ—didn't miss a game.

Last league title: 2001.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Irvine, Calif. **Home court:** Bren Events Center (5,000). **Website:** www.athletics.uci.edu

3. Utah State

National Rank: 115

Coach: Stew Morrill (71-25, 3 years; 289-163 overall, 15 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
Starters lost (4): Curtis Bobb, F (10.4 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.3 spg, 82 FT%); Shawn Daniels, F (11.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.7 bpg, 58 FG%); Dimitri Jorssen, C (8.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 52 FG%); Bernard Rock, G (10.6 ppg, 4.1 apg, 1.2 spg, 48 FG%, 79 FT%).
Others lost: Dion Bailey, F (4.7 ppg, 48 FG%, 75 FT%).
Starters returning (1): Tony Brown, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 84 FT%, 41 3%).
Other returnees: Chad Evans, F, 6-7/So.; Toraino Johnson, F, 6-4/So. (51 FG%); Spencer Nelson, F, 6-7/So. (RS); Brennan Ray, F, 6-5/Sr. (56 FG%); Thomas Vincent, G, 5-10/So.; Jeremy Vague, C, 6-9/Sr. (51 FG%).

Top newcomers: Mike Ahmad, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Calvin Brown, G, 5-10/Fr. (RS); Nate Harris, F, 6-6/Fr.; Desmond Penigar, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Ronnie Ross, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Mike Stowell, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS).

Outlook: Four starters are gone from last year's NCAA Tournament team, but not to worry: Morrill, who landed a contract extension through the 2010-11 season, has retooled. The key addition is Penigar, a transfer who should pick up where Daniels, a two-time Big West first-teamer, left off. The only returning starter is Brown, who made 80 3s, third in the conference. Two who will be counted on are Johnson, who played behind two seniors last season, and the 6-9 Vague.
Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Logan, Utah. **Home court:** D.G. Smith Spectrum (10,270). **Website:** www.utahstateaggies.com

4. Long Beach State

National Rank: 163

Coach: Wayne Morgan (78-67, 5 years).
Starters lost (2): Ramel Lloyd, G (19.4 ppg); Grant Stone, F (4.2 ppg, 5.7 rpg).
Others lost: Larry Johnson, G; Brad Smith, G.
Starters returning (3): Ron Johnson, G, 6-0/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 2.3 spg, 81 FT%); Travis Reed, C, 6-8/Sr. (14.5 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 56 FG%); Lemi Williams, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 36 3%).

Other returnees: Michael Darrett, G, 6-2/Sr. (5.7 ppg, 1.7 spg, 48 FG%); Vance Lawhorn, F, 6-8/Jr. (RS); Kevin Roberts, F, 6-6/So. (4.9 ppg, 54 FG%); Tadeu Souza, F, 6-8/Jr. (RS); James Williams, C, 6-9/Sr. (RS).

Top newcomers: Mark Bowens, G, 6-1/Fr.; Tony Darden, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Anthony Davis, G, 6-5/Fr.; Alex Graham, C, 7-1/Fr.; Chris Jenkins, F, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: Last season it was all Reed, a UCLA transfer, in the frontcourt, which was enough on most nights; he led the conference in rebounding. This season, he gets some help. Three who redshirted last season because of surgeries return, including James Williams, a second-team Big West choice two years ago. Gone is Lloyd, the Big West's top scorer, which means Lemi Williams is the key to the offense.
Last league title: 1995.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Long Beach, Calif. **Home court:** The Pyramid (5,000). **Website:** www.longbeachstate.com

5. Cal State Northridge

National Rank: 169

Coach: Bobby Braswell (85-63, 5 years).
Starters lost (3): Brian Heimle, C (20.2 ppg, 9.2 rpg); Carl Holmes, G (7.5 ppg); Marco McClain, G (8.3 ppg).
Others lost: John Burrell, G (14.6 ppg); Jeff Parris, F (14 ppg, 4.6 rpg).
Starters returning (2): Lionel Benjamin, F, 6-4/Jr.

(2.5 ppg); Markus Carr, G, 6-1/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 8.9 apg).

Other returnees: Joey Busch, F, 6-7/Sr. (3.9 ppg, 3.3 rpg); Jermar Welch, F, 6-7/Sr. (2.8 ppg).

Top newcomers: Ian Boylan, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; Chris Davis, F, 6-8/Fr.; Joseph Frazier, G/F, 6-3/Fr.; Ryan Sims, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Armand Thomas, F, 6-9/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Matadors, winners of the Big Sky last season, won't have the same guns it had last year, losing three starters. But Carr, who led the nation last season in assists (8.9 per game), returns. The one to watch in a big recruiting class: JC transfer Thomas.

Last league title: 2001 (Big Sky).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Northridge, Calif. **Home court:** The Matadome (1,600). **Website:** www.gomatadors.com

6. Pacific

National Rank: 180

Coach: Bob Thomason (202-175, 13 years; 254-202 overall, 15 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Tom Cockle, G/F (7.1 ppg); Peter Heizer, G (12.5 ppg, 75.4 FT%).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (3): Mike Hahn, F, 6-7/Sr.

(10.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 60 FG%); Tim Johnson, C, 6-10/Jr. (54 FG%); Maurice McLemore, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.9 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 75 FT%).

Other returnees: Jono Metzger-Jones, G, 6-1/Sr.

(7 ppg, 39 3%); Eli Nolan, F, 6-5/Jr. (RS); Mike

Preston, C, 6-9/Sr. (6.8 ppg, 60 FG%, 60 3%).

Top newcomers: Miguel Flores, F, 6-9/Fr.; Demetrius Jackson, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); Jaska Korajic, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Christian Maraker, F, 6-9/Fr.

Outlook: Thomason, dean of the Big West coaches, has nine seniors. Among them is Hahn, the Tigers' No. 2 scorer last season. Another is McLemore, who made great strides once he was moved to the point.
Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Stockton, Calif. **Home court:** Spanos Center (6,150). **Website:** www.pacificfictigers.com

7. UC Riverside

National Rank: 258

Coach: John Masi (428-197, 22 years).

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: Steve Clayton, F; Trenell Eddings, G (7.8 ppg, 1.1 spg, 88 FT%); Jason Labagh, F (4.5 ppg); Mark Vanta, F.

Starters returning (5): Ted Bell, F, 6-5/So. (7.5 ppg, 41 3%); Kevin Butler, F, 6-3/So. (5.2 ppg); Aaron Hands, C, 6-7/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 5.7 rpg); Mark Miller, F, 6-6/Jr. (13.2 ppg, 77 FT%); Vili Morton, C, 6-9/So. (8.5 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 58 FG%).

Other returnees: Lloyd Cook, F, 6-6/Sr. (4.4 ppg); Jake Dederer, F, 6-11/So.; Zadkiel Elder, G, 6-2/Jr.; Jason Perkins, G, 6-4/Sr.; Mike Zepeda, C, 6-10/Jr.

Top newcomers: John Galbreath, C/F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Cedric Lusk, G, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Rickey Porter, G, 6-3/Fr.; Jake Wessel, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Highlanders, in their second year as a D-I school and first in the Big West, played 12 games against Big West teams last year. The downside: They won two. But seven of the top nine scorers return, and there are only two seniors.
Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Riverside, Calif. **Home court:** Student Rec. Center (3,206). **Website:** www.athletics.ucr.edu

8. Cal Poly

National Rank: 264

Coach: Kevin Bromley (4-12, 1 year).

Starters lost (4): Chris Bjorklund, F (18.1 ppg,

4.9 rpg); Watende Favors, G (13.8 ppg, 85 FT%, 42 3%); Jeremiah Mayes, F (8.7 ppg, 6.1 rpg);

Jamaal Scott, G (15.1 ppg, 5.9 rpg).

Others lost: Michael Burris, G.

Starters returning (1): Brandon Beeson, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 38 3%).

Other returnees: Bryan Brown, G, 6-3/Sr.; Varnie Dennis, F, 6-7/So. (8.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Steve Geary, G, 5-11/Jr. (RS); James Grace, F, 6-5/Jr.; David Henry, F, 6-8/Sr. (4.5 ppg, 81 FT%); Steve McClean, G, 6-4/Sr.; Mike Titchenal, G, 6-5/Fr. (RS).

Top newcomers: Phil Johnson, C, 6-11/Fr.; Vladimir Linsinic, F, 6-9/Fr.; Jason Allen, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Eric Jackson, G, 6-4/So. (JC).

Outlook: Gone are the three top scorers. It's the first full season for Bromley, who took over 12 games into last season after Jeff Schneider resigned. Beeson was the league's No. 2 rebounder last season. The Mustangs have two potential outstanding point guards: Geary, a redshirt last season, and Allen, a JC transfer.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: San Luis Obispo, Calif. **Home court:** Mott Gymnasium (3,032). **Website:** www.gopoly.com

9. Cal State Fullerton

National Rank: 290

Coach: Donny Daniels (5-23, 1 year).

Starters lost (2): Matt Caldwell, C (4.6 ppg, 3 rpg); Ike Harmon, F (12.9 ppg, 6.3 rpg).

Others lost: Mitch Deve', C; Daniel Kohn, F (4 rpg).

Starters returning (3): Babacar Camara, C, 6-11/Jr. (7.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 36 3%); David Castleton, G, 6-2/Sr. (7.8 ppg); Kevin Richardson, G, 6-5/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 1 spg, 79 FT%).

Other returnees: Brandon Campbell, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (RS); Ryan Dillon, G, 6-2/So. (8.7 ppg, 37 3%); Josh Fischer, F, 6-9/Sr. (6 ppg); Chris Smith, G, 5-9/So.

Top newcomers: Chris Alexander, G, 6-3/Fr.; Derick Andrew, G, 6-1/So. (Prop 48).

Outlook: Probably the best news for Daniels is the remarkable recovery from a knee injury by swingman Campbell. He played in only two games before he was lost for the season. Two years ago, he averaged 10.7 points and 4.7 rebounds.

Last league title: 1976.

Last NCAA appearance: 1978.

Site: Fullerton, Calif. **Home court:** Titan Gym (3,500). **Website:** http://sports.fullerton.edu

10. Idaho

National Rank: 299

Coach: Leonard Perry (1st year).

Starters lost (2): Adam Miller, G (10.6 ppg, 84 FT%); Bret Wise, F (5.9 ppg, 40 3%).

Others lost: Eric Collier, F; Roland Coppage, G.

Starters returning (3): Bethuel Fletcher, G, 6-1/Sr.

(7.3 ppg); Matt Gerschefske, F, 6-6/Sr. (11 ppg); Rodney Hilaire, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.9 ppg, 4.5 rpg).

Other returnees: Jerald Jenkins, G, 6-5/Jr. (10.6 ppg); Marquis Holmes, F, 6-6/Sr. (3.9 ppg, 3.2 rpg); Justin Logan, G, 6-0/Jr.; Nate Watson, G, 6-4/Sr.

Top newcomers: Tyrone Hayes, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); David Howell, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Tanoris Shepard, G, 6-0/Fr.

Outlook: One thing the team can bank on: Jenkins, named the Big West's Best Sixth Man last season, will start at guard. Gerschefske, the team's top scorer, is back. The bad news—he's 6-6 (one of five 6-6 players), and that's as big as the Vandals go.

Last league title: 1990 (Big Sky).

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Moscow, Idaho. **Home court:** Cowan Spectrum (7,000). **Website:** www.uiathletics.com

(Big West continued)

Schedules

UC Irvine

N16 St. Mary's
N20 Pepperdine
N23-25 RMC Shootout
N28 at Loyola Mt.
D1 UC Davis
D11 at San Diego
D15 at UCLA
D22 Long Beach St.
D28-29 Oneida Classic
J3 CS Fullerton
J5 UC Riverside
J10 at Utah State
J12 at Idaho
J17 Pacific
J19 CS Northridge
J24 at UC Santa Bar.
J26 at Cal Poly
J31 at UC Riverside
F2 at CS Fullerton
F7 Idaho
F9 Utah State
F14 at CS Northridge
F16 at Pacific
F21 Cal Poly
F23 UC Santa Bar.
F28 at Long Beach St.

UC Riverside

N17 at Portland
N23 TBA
N27 at Arizona State
N30-D1 Fresno St. Trn.
D5 at UCLA
D8 at Southern Utah

D15 UC Santa Cruz
D20 UC Santa Bar.
D22 Cal Poly
D27 CS Sacramento
D29 TBA
J3 at Long Beach St.
J5 at UC Irvine
J12 CS Fullerton
J17 Utah State
J19 Idaho
J24 at Pacific
J26 at CS Northridge
J31 UC Irvine
J5 UC Riverside
J10 at Utah State
J12 at Idaho
J17 Pacific
J19 CS Northridge
J24 at UC Santa Bar.
J26 at Cal Poly
J31 at UC Riverside
F2 at CS Fullerton
F7 Idaho
F9 Utah State
F14 at CS Northridge
F16 at Pacific
F21 Cal Poly
F23 UC Santa Bar.
F28 at Long Beach St.

UC Santa Bar.

N17 Westmont
N24 at San Francisco
N26 at USC
N28 Brigham Young
D1 St. Mary's
D5 at Loyola Mt.
D8 Pepperdine
D20 at UC Riverside
D22 at CS Fullerton
D28 Cable Car Cl.
J3 Idaho
J5 Utah State
J10 at CS Northridge
J12 at Pacific

J19 at Cal Poly
J24 UC Irvine
J26 Long Beach St.
J31 at Utah State
F2 at Idaho
F7 Pacific
F9 CS Northridge
F16 Cal Poly
F21 at Long Beach St.
F23 at UC Irvine
F28 CS Fullerton
M2 UC Riverside

Cal Poly

N16 at N. Arizona
N19 St. Mary's
N27 Portland State
N29 at Vanderbilt
D1 at Lipscomb
D10 at E. Washington
D15 Oregon State
D20 at CS Fullerton
D22 at UC Riverside
D30 at CS Stanislaus
J3 Utah State
J5 Idaho
J10 at Pacific
J12 at CS Northridge
J16 CS Sacramento
J19 UC Santa Bar.
J24 Long Beach St.
J26 UC Irvine
J31 at Idaho
F2 at Utah State
F7 CS Northridge
F9 Pacific
F16 at UC Santa Bar.

F21 at UC Irvine
F23 at Long Beach St.
F28 UC Riverside
M2 CS Fullerton

CS Fullerton

N17 at Pepperdine
N19 San Francisco
N24 Loyola Mt.
N29 at Baylor
D1 at Wyoming
D6 at Sacramento St.
D8 Point Loma
D15 CS Sacramento
D20 Cal Poly
D22 UC Santa Bar.
D29 at N. Arizona
J3 at UC Irvine
J5 at Long Beach St.
J12 at UC Riverside
J17 Idaho
J19 Utah State
J24 at CS Northridge
J26 at Pacific
J31 Long Beach St.
F2 UC Irvine
F9 UC Riverside
F14 at Utah State
F16 at Idaho
F21 Pacific
F23 CS Northridge
F28 at UC Santa Bar.
M2 at Cal Poly

CS Northridge

N17 Nevada
N19 Dominican

N22 Fresno State Cl.
N26 at Howard
D1 at San Diego St.
D4 at Wyoming
D8 at Nevada
D16 Southern Illinois
D20 at Utah State
D22 at Idaho
D27 at Brigham Young
J3 San Diego
J5 Pacific
J10 UC Santa Bar.
J12 Cal Poly
J17 at Long Beach St.
J19 at UC Irvine
J24 CS Fullerton
J26 UC Riverside
J31 at Pacific
F7 at Cal Poly
F9 at UC Santa Bar.
F14 UC Irvine
F16 Long Beach St.
F21 at UC Riverside
F23 at CS Fullerton
F28 Idaho
M2 Utah State

Idaho

N16 W. Montana
N24 at Boise State
N28 Portland
D1 Boise State
D4 at Washington St.
D6 E. Washington
D8 Montana
D12 Pacific

D15 at Brigham Young
D22 CS Northridge
D30 at CS Sacramento
J3 at UC Santa Bar.
J5 at Cal Poly
J10 Long Beach St.
J12 UC Irvine
J17 at CS Fullerton
J19 at UC Riverside
J26 Utah State
J31 Cal Poly
F2 UC Santa Bar.
F7 at UC Irvine
F9 at Long Beach St.
F14 UC Riverside
F16 CS Fullerton
F23 at Utah State
F28 at CS Northridge
M3 at Pacific

Long Beach St.

N15 West Michigan*
N16 Alabama State*
N17 Oregon*
N24 UNC Charlotte
N26 CS Monterey Bay
N30 at Texas A&M
D4 at Pepperdine
D12 USC
D15 at Stanford
D18 Loyola Mt.
D22 at UC Irvine
D29 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
J3 UC Riverside
J5 CS Fullerton
J10 at Idaho

J12 at Utah State
J17 CS Northridge
J19 Pacific
J24 at Cal Poly
J26 at UC Santa Bar.
J31 at CS Fullerton
F2 at UC Riverside
F7 Utah State
F9 Idaho
F14 at Pacific
F16 at CS Northridge
F21 at UC Santa Bar.
F23 Cal Poly
F28 UC Irvine
* Eugene, Ore.

Pacific

N17 at Santa Clara
N20 CS Monterey Bay
N23-24 Hispanic Coll. Tr.
N28 Fresno State
D2 at Montana
D8 San Jose State
D12 at Idaho
D15 at San Francisco
D22 at Utah State
D29 Nebraska
J2 TBA
J5 at CS Northridge
J10 Cal Poly
J12 UC Santa Bar.
J17 at UC Irvine
J19 at Long Beach St.
J24 UC Riverside
J26 CS Fullerton
J31 CS Northridge

F7 at UC Santa Bar.
F9 at Cal Poly
F14 Long Beach St.
F16 UC Irvine
F21 at CS Fullerton
F23 at UC Riverside
F28 Utah State
M3 Idaho

Utah State

N17 at Montana St.
N24 at Utah
N28 Idaho State
D1 Brigham Young
D4 Montana State
D8 at Weber State
D15 W. Colorado St.
D20 CS Northridge
D22 Pacific
D28-29 Gossner Cl.
J3 at Cal Poly
J5 at UC Santa Bar.
J10 UC Irvine
J12 Long Beach St.
J17 at UC Riverside
J19 at CS Fullerton
J26 at Idaho
J31 UC Santa Bar.
F2 Cal Poly
F7 at Long Beach St.
F9 UC Irvine
F14 CS Fullerton
F16 UC Riverside
F23 Idaho
F28 at Pacific
M2 at CS Northridge

COLONIAL

1. Hofstra

National Rank: 92

Coach: Tom Pencora (1st year).

Starters lost (4): Roberto Gittens, F (10.6 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 65.8 FG%); Jason Hernandez, G (12.1 ppg, 4 apg); Norman Richardson, F (12.1 ppg, 6 rpg); Greg Springfield, C (5.5 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.3 bpg).

Others lost: Abdou Sylla, F (11.2 mpg).

Starters returning (1): Rick Apodaca, G, 6-3/Jr. (12.1 ppg, 1.5 spg).

Other returnees: Lars Grubler, C, 6-11/Jr. (4.4 ppg, 59 FG%); Joel Suarez, G, 6-0/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 45.3 FG%); Danny Walker, F, 6-6/Jr. (4.4 ppg).

Top newcomers: Kenny Adeleke, F, 6-8/Fr.; Wendell Gibson, F, 6-7/Fr.; Chris McRae, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Osei Millar, F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer/Boston College, eligible midseason); Marc Petit, F/G, 6-8/Jr. (RS); Michael Radziejewski, G, 6-5/Fr. (RS); Woody Souffrant, PG, 5-11/Fr.

Outlook: After watching standouts Speedy Claxton and Richardson depart the past two years, it would appear as if former coach Jay Wright's dash to his dream job at Villanova was well-timed. Not so fast. Trusted Wright lieutenant Tom Pecora has plenty of inventory this season. Holdover guard Apodaca figures to improve on last year's 12.1 ppg, backcourt mate Suarez has potential and Walker could be productive on the wing. The big news is the arrival of the newcomers. McRae is the most-heralded recruit ever at Hofstra, and the 6-7 Millar, a Boston College transfer, should have success inside. Look out for 6-8 freshman Adeleke in the open court. **Last league title:** 2001 (America East).

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Richmond+%	12	4	22	7
UNC Wilmington^	11	5	19	11
George Mason*	11	5	18	12
Va. Commonwealth	9	7	16	14
William & Mary	7	9	11	17
Old Dominion	7	9	13	18
James Madison	6	10	12	17
East Carolina#	6	10	14	14
American\$	3	13	7	20

*Lost to Maryland, 83-80, in NCAA West first round.

+Lost to Dayton, 71-56, in NIT second round.

^Lost to Dayton, 68-59, in NIT first round.

#Now in Atlantic 10. \$Now in Conference USA.

SNow in Patriot League.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.

Site: Hempstead, N.Y. **Home court:** Hofstra Arena (5,124). **Website:** www.hofstra.edu/sports

2. UNC Wilmington

National Rank: 119

Coach: Jerry Wainwright (113-93, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Marcus Green, F/C (4.1 ppg, 1.2 bpg); Barron Thelmon, G (8.9 ppg, 1.3 spg).

Others lost: Marty Jarmond, G.

Starters returning (3): Brett Blizzard, G, 6-3/Jr. (13.8 ppg, 4 rpg, 39.4 3%, 1.6 spg); Stewart Hare, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.6 ppg); Ed Williams, F, 6-6/Sr. (12 ppg,

Michael Bradley, free-lance writer

Predictions

- Hofstra*
- UNC Wilmington
- Delaware
- George Mason
- Va. Commonwealth
- Old Dominion
- James Madison
- Drexel
- William & Mary
- Towson

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Rick Apodaca, Hofstra	6-3	190	Jr.
G	Pierre Greene, Old Dominion	6-2	180	Sr.
G	Brett Blizzard, UNC Wilmington	6-3	195	Jr.
F	Willie Taylor, Va. Commonwealth	6-5	200	Jr.
F	Mike Johnson, William & Mary	6-7	240	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Austen Rowland, Delaware	6-1	175	Jr.
G	Brian Allen, Towson	5-11	182	Jr.
F	Ed Williams, UNC Wilmington	6-6	220	Sr.
F	Maurice Sessoms, Delaware	6-8	240	Sr.
F	Tim Lyle, James Madison	6-8	225	Sr.

Player of the Year

Brett Blizzard, G, UNC Wilmington

Newcomer of the Year

Chris McRae, G/F, Hofstra

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Brett Blizzard, UNC Wilmington

Best rebounder: Mike Johnson, William & Mary

Best playmaker: Austen Rowland, Delaware

Best defender: John Larranaga, George Mason

Best dunker: Willie Taylor, Virginia Commonwealth

Most versatile: Willie Taylor, Virginia Commonwealth

Most flamboyant: Willie Taylor, Virginia Commonwealth

Best NBA prospect: Brett Blizzard, UNC Wilmington

6.4 rpg, 49.5 FG%, 1.1 spg).

Other returnees: Tim Burnette, G, 6-1/So.; Craig Callahan, F, 6-8/Jr. (7.3 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 46.5 FG%); Joel Justus, G, 6-5/So.; Anthony Terrell, F, 6-6/So.

Top newcomers: Lou Chapman, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Brandon Clifford, 6-9/Fr. (RS); Aaron Coombs, C, 6-11/Fr.

Outlook: Sharpshooting junior guard Blizzard is only one key to the season. The Seahawks must beef up their rebounding and find a replacement for departed point guard Thelmon if they want to duplicate or improve on last year's NIT season. It's time for Blizzard to carry the load every night, but his life will be easier if JC point guard Chapman steps in right away and can deliver the ball. Plug Callahan and Terrell into Green's vacated power forward spot next to Williams, and things look good. Some help from 6-11 freshman Coombs would be appreciated, however. The Seahawks again will play great defense, but it would be nice if they could score more than 61.4 points per game, their average last season. Blizzard can help there, but Chapman is no less important.

Last league title: 1998 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Wilmington, N.C. **Home court:** Track Coliseum (6,100). **Website:** www.uncwil.edu/athletics

3. Delaware

National Rank: 131

Coach: David Henderson (20-10, 1 year).

Starters lost (3): Ajmal Basit, F (15.2 ppg, 9.6 rpg, 2.7 bpg); Greg Miller, G/F (7.2 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Billy Wells, G (13.7 ppg, 42.3 3%, 1.8 spg).

Others lost: Brock Donovan, G.

Starters returning (2): Austen Rowland, G, 6-1/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 36.1 3%, 1.4 spg); Maurice Sessoms, F, 6-8/Jr. (7 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 55.5 FG%).

Other returnees: Mike Ames, F, 6-1/So. (4.1 ppg, 40.4 3%); Dave Hindenlang, F, 6-9/So.; Ryan Iversen, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 39 3%, 1.8 spg); Sean Knitter, F, 6-8/So.; Anthony Thomas, F, 6-5/So.; Robin Wentt, F/G, 6-9/So.

Top newcomers: Mark Curry, F, 6-5/Fr. (RS); Vohn Hunter, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); David Lunn, G/F, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Mike Slattery, G, 6-0/Fr.; Calvin Smith, F, 6-5/Fr.

Outlook: For the second straight season, the Blue Hens had hefty losses. Gone are forward Basit and guard Wells, a pair of all-conference choices in the America East. Who will step up? Perhaps it will be Rowland, a slick point with a good long-range shooting eye? Or perhaps it will be regrettably Sessoms, the Wisconsin expatriate. Second-year coach Henderson expects Iversen to provide 3-point power but needs interior help from a trio of sophomores to replace Basit, who had 18 double-doubles last year. Delaware always can count on a transfer, and this season it should be Hunter, a former Texas signee. Medical redshirts Lunn and Curry are a pair of talented freshman wings.

Last league title: 1999 (America East).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Newark, Del. **Home court:** Bob Carpenter Center (5,000). **Website:** www.udel.edu/sportsinfo

4. George Mason

National Rank: 155

Coach: Jim Larranaga (65-52, 4 years; 263-221 overall, 17 years).

Starters lost (3): George Evans, F (18.4 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 61.3 FG%, 1.9 spg, 1.4 bpg); Erik Herring,

G (16 ppg, 40.2 3%, 1.3 spg); Tremaine Price, G (7.5 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.3 spg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (2): Jon Larranaga, F, 6-6/Jr. (8 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.7 spg); Jesse Young, F, 6-10/Jr. (8.2 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 55.7 FG%).

Other returnees: Rob Anderson, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (4.8 ppg); Deon Cooper, C/F, 6-9/So.; Raoul Heinen, G, 6-4/So.; Terrance Nixon, F, 6-6/Sr.; Rob Sullivan, G, 6-0/So.; Richard Tynes, G, 6-4/So.

Top newcomers: Steve Bonner, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Lamar Butler, G, 6-1/Fr.; Derek Franklin, G, 6-10/Jr. (transfer/Boston U.); Darren Tarver, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Colin Wyatt, F, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: The focus moves from the inside to the perimeter after the graduation of 30-year-old forward and Army veteran Evans, whose relentless inside play lifted the Patriots to the NCAA tourney and a near-miss against Maryland last year. A pair of new guards, highly regarded point Butler and JC shooter Tarver, must contribute immediately, or George Mason may not break 60 a game. Holdover frontcourt players Young and Larranaga are solid, but neither will approach Evans' overall production. JC wing Bonner is nursing a knee injury but will be ready later in the season to score and rebound. GMU won't repeat last season's dream run, but it will be good. Next season, it will be even better.

Last league title: 1999.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Fairfax, Va. **Home court:** Patriot Center (10,000). **Website:** www.gmusports.com

5. Virginia Commonwealth

National Rank: 177

Coach: Mack McCarthy (45-44, 3 years; 288-166 overall, 15 years).

Starters lost (3): Bo Jones, G (13.9 ppg, 40.7 3%, 83.9 FT%); Johnnie Story, F (7.6 ppg, 50.6 FG%, 77.3 FT%); LaMar Taylor, G (7.4 ppg, 38.6 3%).

Others lost: Scott Lilly, G (81.8 FT%).

Starters returning (2): L.F. Likholitov, C, 6-10/Sr. (10 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 56.6 FG%, 1.7 bpg); Willie Taylor, F, 6-5/Jr. (11.5 ppg).

Other returnees: Josh Graham, F, 6-5/Jr.; Domic Jones, G, 6-1/So. (7.3 ppg); Konstantin Nesterov, F, 6-8/Jr. (4.8 ppg, 47.4 3%); Denis Orlov, C, 7-2/So.; Alexander Shtam, G, 6-3/Sr.; Matt Treadwell, C, 6-11/Jr.

Top newcomers: Mark Adams, G, 6-1/Fr.; Josh Clark, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Antonio Hargrove, G/F, 6-5/Fr. (RS); Emanuel Mathis, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/Florida State); Derrick Reid, F, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: The Rams are going to finish 17-13 this season. Book it. Under McCarthy, they have progressed from 15-16 to 14-14 to 16-14. VCU has become deeper and should be more athletic, even if real CAA contention remains a season or two away. Using transfers and homegrown talent, McCarthy has made Virginia Commonwealth more exciting and productive. Now, he needs to make his frontcourt capable of hanging with the better big people in the league. The Rams hope 6-7 JC newcomer Clark can do that. Look for him to team with Taylor, an explosive scorer, to provide a nice frontline complement to the talented backcourt. Jones runs the show and penetrates, and Mathis and Hargrove should profit from Jones' generosity.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Richmond, Va. **Home court:** Stuart C. Siegal Center (7,500). **Website:** www.vcu.edu/vcurams

6. Old Dominion

National Rank: 183

Coach: Blaine Taylor (1st year; 142-65 overall, 7 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (3): Clifton Jones, F (7.2 ppg, 9.3 rpg, 1.6 bpg); Andre McCullum, F (12.5 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 44.7 3%).

Others lost: Heath Burris, G; Darren Dickerson, G; Michael Williams, G (5.2 ppg).

Starters returning (3): Pierre Green, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 45.2 FG%, 1.2 spg); Ricardo Marsh, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1 spg); Rasheed Wright, F/G 6-5/Jr. (9.8 ppg, 4 rpg, 36.4 3%).

Other returnees: Charles Dunnington, F/C, 6-9/So.; Clay McGowen, C, 6-11/So.; Troy Nance, G, 5-9/So.; Andreas Themistocleous, F/G, 6-5/So.; Joe Principe, C, 6-10/So. (52.8 FG%); John Waller, F/G, 6-4/So.

Top newcomers: James Smith, F, 6-7/Fr.; Kiah Smith, F/G, 6-4/Fr.; Alan Treese, F, 6-8/Fr.; T.J. Waldon, F, 6-5/Fr.

Outlook: Longtime Stanford aide Taylor takes over. If only his two assistants (and former NBA forwards) Larry Kristkowiak and Kenny Gattison could take the court and help the Monarchs inside. McCullum and top rebounder Jones are gone, leaving plenty of tall unknowns to man the boards. Maybe sophomores Dunnington and Principe can help, but they have a long road ahead. Newcomer Treese is 6-8 but weighs only 195. The little guys will have to deliver. Greene showed he can, receiving second-team all-league honors last season. He'll have help from wings Marsh and Wright, two juniors with double-figure scoring potential. Freshman wing Thomas has fine credentials, as does newcomer Waldon. They'll be even more impressive if they can rebound.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Norfolk, Va. **Home court:** The Scope (10,239). **Website:** www.odusports.com

7. James Madison

National Rank: 199

Coach: Sherman Dillard (59-53, 4 years; 88-105 overall, 7 years).

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: Dwayne Braxton, G (8.2 ppg); Mickey Dennis, G (5.1 ppg).

Starters returning (5): Ron Anderson, G, 6-3/Sr. (5.7 ppg); Ian Caskill, C, 6-10/Jr. (5.2 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1 bpg); David Fanning, G, 6-0/Jr. (11 ppg); Tim Lyle, F, 6-8/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 48.7 FG%, 35.6 3%); Chris Williams, G, 6-3/So. (5.2 ppg).

Other returnees: Kevin Bower, F, 6-7/So.; Dwayne Broyles, G/F, 6-4/So.; Charlie Hatter, G/F, 6-4/Jr.; Pat Mitchell, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.4 ppg, 46.6 FG%); Jerian Younger, F, 6-9/Jr. (5.5 ppg, 45.5 FG%).

Top newcomers: Daniel Freeman, G, 6-1/Fr.; Todd Moret, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Kenny Whitehead, F/C, 6-10/Jr. (transfer/Charlotte).

Outlook: If the Dukes can keep out of the podiatrist's office, they might be all right. Four key players were sidelined by foot problems last season, prohibiting the team from developing any consistency, particularly in the backcourt. The return of five starters—five healthy starters—should solve that problem, especially if Lyle can continue his development into an all-around front-court threat. Fanning is a capable distributor with good shooting range, and Mitchell and Caskill provide some power inside. Dillard imported a pair of

perimeter players—Freeman and Moret—in the hope that at least one will be a consistent shooter. JMU made just 41 percent of its field-goal tries last season (30.9 percent from 3-point range).

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Harrisonburg, Va. **Home court:** Convocation Center (7,156). **Website:** www.jmu.edu

8. Drexel

National Rank: 218

Coach: James "Bruiser" Flint (1st year; 86-72 overall, 5 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (4): Mike Kouser, F (17.6 ppg, 8.9 rpg); Joe Linderman, C (17.8 ppg, 7 rpg, 59.8 FG%); Petrick Sanders, F (5.1 ppg, 4.6 rpg); Stephen Starks, G (19.4 ppg, 42.7 3%, 1.2 spg).

Others lost: David Stec, G/F; Brett Storm, G (transfer/Philadelphia University).

Starters returning (1): Ashley Howard, G, 6-0/Jr. (8.9 ppg, 38.2 3%, 4.9 apg).

Other returnees: Robert Battle, C, 6-8/Jr.; Sean Brooks, F, 6-6/So.; Pat Deveney, F, 6-8/So.; Doug Fairfax, G/F, 6-4/Jr.; Jamil Moore, G, 6-4/So.; Jay Overcash, G, 6-3/Jr.; Eric Schmieder, G, 6-3/Jr.; Tim Whitworth, G, 6-6/So.

Top newcomers: Phil Goss, G, 6-1/Fr.; Danny Hinds, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; Jeremiah King, G, 6-2/Fr.; Steve Showers, C, 6-9/Fr.

Outlook: Deposed Massachusetts coach Flint takes a step down from the A-10 and hopes to will the Dragons to contention, despite the loss of four starters from last season's America East third-place team. Expect the backcourt to be solid, thanks to holdover point man Howard, a capable distributor who can hit the 3. Three new guards—shooter Goss, combo player King and swingman Hinds—will get plenty of playing time. The frontcourt has lost an average of 54.8 points per game and has no guaranteed producer. Center

Battle is an adequate shot blocker, and freshman Showers should help on the boards. Neither is a star. A rebuilding year looms, although Flint should be able to recruit well in his hometown.

Last league title: 1996 (America East).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** Daskalakis Center (2,300). **Website:** www.drexel.edu/sports

9. William & Mary

National Rank: 231

Coach: Rick Boyages (11-17, 1 year; 56-66 overall, 5 years).

Starters lost (2): Tim Moran, F (13.6 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 46.7 FG%); Mit Winter, G (5 ppg, 83.7 FT%).

Others lost: Brian Brown, G; Alex Klein, G.

Starters returning (3): Mike Johnson, F, 6-7/Sr. (12 ppg, 7.3 rpg); Sherman Rivers, G, 6-1/Jr. (9 ppg, 4.5 rpg); Tom Strohbehn, F/C, 6-4/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg).

Other returnees: Cody Carbaugh, G, 6-3/Sr.; Zeb Cope, F, 6-9/So. (73.9 FT%); Bill Davis, F, 6-7/Sr.; Adam Duggins, C, 6-11/Jr. (4.7 ppg, 46.6 FG%); Reid Markham, G, 6-2/So.

Top newcomers: Nick D'Antoni, G, 6-0/Fr.; Adam Hess, F, 6-7/So. (transfer/Eastern Michigan); Nate Loehrke, C, 6-10/Fr.; Steve Sorenson, F, 6-8/Fr.; Thomas Vilgiano, F, 6-9/Fr.

Outlook: The Tribe might surprise you. Second-year coach Boyages has begun upgrading the talent, and his 2001 recruiting class has some gems, such as center Loehrke, versatile forward Vilgiano and slick point man D'Antoni. Add three returning starters, and you might just have an above-.500 team. The Tribe will be deep, athletic and tougher than it has been. If only it could score some points to go with its tough defense.

Last league title: 1998 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Williamsburg, Va. **Home court:** William &

Mary Hall (8,600). **Website:** www.TribeAthletics.com

10. Towson

National Rank: 252

Coach: Michael Hunt (1st year).

Starters lost (2): Brian Barber, F (13.8 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 52.2 FG%); Shaun Holtz, C (11 ppg, 5.7 rpg).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (3): Brian Allen, G, 5-11/Jr. (10.8 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 41.3 3%, 4.1 apg, 2.3 spg);

Tamir Goodman, G, 6-3/So. (6 ppg, 4 apg); Sam

Sutton, F, 6-4/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 51.4 FG%,

4.3 apg, 1.8 spg).

Other returnees: Kerry Augustus, F, 6-6/Sr.; Mike Shin, C, 6-7/Sr.; Marijan Spalevic, F, 6-7/So.; Gerald Weatherspoon, G, 6-3/Jr. (7.4 ppg, 42.2 3%).

Top newcomers: Tony Dixon, F, 6-9/Fr.; Calvin

Dotson, G, 6-3/So. (JC); Mohamed Fofana, F,

6-8/Fr. (RS); Derrick Goode, C, 7-0/Fr. (RS);

Jerome Matthews, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/Concordia

College); Justin Reeves, G, 6-2/Fr.

Outlook: New coach Hunt recalls the good times at Towson. He was an assistant from 1988-92, when the program made a pair of NCAA tourney appearances, before his stints at Tennessee and Georgia. Though Towson will be solid in the backcourt, the lack of big people will cause problems in the tougher CAA. Allen returns to the point but likely will share the spot with Goodman, who played off-guard last season and appeared quite comfortable away from the spotlight. Now, if Goodman can only gain some weight. Weatherspoon has potential at off-guard, but he'll be challenged by Dotson. Up front, Sutton is a fixture at small forward, but it gets shaky from there. Hunt must direct his big people to the weight room.

Last league title: 1991 (East Coast).

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Towson, Md. **Home court:** Towson Center (5,000). **Website:** www.towson.edu/athletics

Schedules

Delaware

N15-18 Top of World Cl

N24 La Salle

N28 St. Joseph's

D6 at High Point

D8 at UNC-Greens.

D15 at Rider

D22 at George Mason

D30 Loyola (Md.)

J3 James Madison

J5 at William & Mary

J7 at Old Dominion

J12 at UNC Wilm.

J14 at VCU

J17 at Pennsylvania

J19 Drexel

J23 Towson

J26 at Hofstra

J30 VCU

F2 Old Dominion

F6 George Mason

F9 at Drexel

F13 at Towson

F16 UNC Wilmington

F20 William & Mary

F23 Hofstra

F25 at J. Madison

Drexel

N16-17 Marist Tourney

N24 at Rider

N28 Pennsylvania

D1 at J. Madison

D5 Lafayette

D8 La Salle

D10 at St. Joseph's

D18 Northeastern

D23 Hofstra

D29 Niagara

J3 VCU

J5 at Old Dominion

J7 at William & Mary

J12 at Towson

J16 James Madison

J19 at Delaware

J23 at Hofstra

J26 George Mason

J30 William & Mary

F2 at VCU

F4 at UNC Wilm.

F9 Delaware

F11 Old Dominion

F16 at George Mason

F18 UNC Wilmington

F23 Towson

George Mason

N17 at Niagara

N19 at Miami (Ohio)

N24 Toledo

N28 Coppin State

D1 at Mississippi

D5 Central Michigan

D8 Southern Illinois

D22 Delaware

D28 Winthrop*

D31 at Duquesne

J3 William & Mary

J5 Towson

J9 at UNC Wilm.

J12 Old Dominion

J14 Hofstra

J19 at Towson

J23 at VCU

J26 at Drexel

F2 James Madison

F6 at Delaware

F9 at Hofstra

F11 UNC Wilmington

F16 Drexel

F18 at William & Mary

F20 VCU

F23 at J. Madison

F25 at Old Dominion

*at Halifax, Nova Scotia

Hofstra

N17 Florida Atlantic

N23-25 RMC Shootout

D1 Iona*

D4 at Syracuse

D8 Stony Brook

D16 at St. John's

D21 at Manhattan

D23 at Drexel

D29-30 USF Shootout

J3 Old Dominion

J5 UNC Wilmington

J9 VCU

J12 at J. Madison

J14 at George Mason

J19 William & Mary

J23 Drexel

J26 Delaware

J30 at Towson

F2 at UNC Wilm.

F4 at VCU

F9 George Mason

F13 James Madison

F16 at William & Mary

F18 at Old Dominion

F23 at Delaware

F25 Towson

*at New York

James Madison

N20 at NC State

N24 Gardner-Webb

D1 Drexel

D5 West Virginia

D8 at Liberty

D15 at East Tenn. St.

D19 at Penn State

D22 Morgan State

D28-29 Spider Invit.

J3 at Delaware

J5 at VCU

J12 Hofstra

J16 at Drexel

J19 at UNC Wilm.

J23 at William & Mary

J26 Towson

J30 Old Dominion

F2 at George Mason

F4 William & Mary

F6 VCU

F9 UNC Wilmington

F13 at Hofstra

F16 at Old Dominion

F20 at Towson

F23 George Mason

F25 Delaware

Old Dominion

N13-21 Guardians Cl.

N24 Virginia Tech

N26 Delaware State

D1 Illinois-Chicago

D5 Geo.Washington

D8 at East Carolina

D15 Coastal Carolina

D18 Hampton

D21 UNC Wilmington

D30 at UNLV

J3 at Hofstra

J5 Drexel

J7 Delaware

J12 at George Mason

J14 at Towson

J19 VCU

J23 at UNC Wilm.

J26 William & Mary

J30 at J. Madison

F2 at Delaware

F4 Towson

F9 at VCU

F11 at Drexel

F16 James Madison

F18 Hofstra

F23 at William & Mary

F25 George Mason

Towson

N17-19 Battle of Balt.

N24 at Georgetown

N28 at LSU

D1 Rider

D5 at VCU

D8 Morgan State

D11 at Md.-E. Shore

D15 Fair-Dickinson

D20 at Howard

D22 at UMBC

D30 at UNC Wilm.

J2 Delaware State

J5 at George Mason

J12 Drexel

J14 Old Dominion

J19 George Mason

J23 at Delaware

J26 at J. Madison

J28 UNC Wilmington

J30 Hofstra

F2 at William & Mary

F4 at Old Dominion

F9 William & Mary

F13 Delaware

F16 VCU

F20 James Madison

F23 at Drexel

F25 at Hofstra

UNC Wilmington

N12 at Wake Forest*

N17 Miami (Ohio)

N24 at High Point

N26 at Radford

D2 at Ohio State

D4 at Minnesota

D8 Duquesne

D10 at Bowling Green

D15 Coll. of Charles.

D21 at Old Dominion

SOUTHERN

SOUTH DIVISION

1. Georgia Southern

National Rank: 129

Coach: Jeff Price (31-27, 2 years; 167-79, 8 years).

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: Todd Shipley, G (9.4 ppg, 38.3%).

Starters returning (5): Frank Bennett, F, 6-7/So.

(8.6 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 49.7 FG%); Kenny Faulk, G, 6-3/So. (6.2 ppg, 40.0 3%); Julius Jenkins, G, 6-2/Jr. (16.7 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 81.4 FT%); Kashien Latham, F, 6-9/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 9.7 rpg, 52.2 FG%); Sean Peterson, G, 6-1/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 6.2 apg, 46.6 FG%).

Other returnees: Marcus Byams, F, 6-6/So.; Sam Cox, G, 6-7/Sr.; Edward Keith, F, 6-7/Sr.

(54.1 FG%); Wayne Wooley, F, 6-7/Sr. (45.1 FG%).

Top newcomers: Kordel Gibson, F, 6-4/So. (JC);

Willie Puckett, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Sean Olivier, F, 6-9/Fr.; Terry Williams, G, 6-1/Fr.

Outlook: In just two years, Price has fashioned the league's most explosive offense, led by the all-conference duo of Jenkins and Latham and Peterson. Bennett is a bruising big man who was named to the all-freshman team last season, and Olivier gives the Eagles another athletic body in the post. The team also led the league in rebounding last season, but the key to its fortunes will be defense. The wide-open offense often leaves the team vulnerable at the other end, but it showed signs last season of solving that problem. If that happens, this could be the season the Eagles topple College of Charleston from atop the South.

Last league title: 1992 (TAAC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Statesboro, Ga. **Home court:** Hanner Fieldhouse (4,378). **Website:**

www.georgiasoutherneagles.com

2. College of Charleston

National Rank: 145

Coach: John Kresse (539-134, 22 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (1): Jody Lumpkin, C (17.1 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 2.7 bpg, 1.9 spg, 58 FG%, 78.2 FT%).

Others lost: Pat Davis, F; Nick Dyer, F; James Griffin, G; Tyrone Nelson, G (4.4 ppg, 77.8 FT%).

Starters returning (4): Jeff Bolton, G, 6-3/Sr.

(16.1 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.1 spg, 83.3 FT%, 35.3%); Leighton Bowie, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.8 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 50.7 FG%); A.J. Harris, G, 6-0/Jr. (4.1 apg); Troy Wheless, G, 6-3/Jr. (6.7 ppg, 1.4 spg, 36.5 3%).

Other returnees: Mike Benton, 6-9/So. (RS); Quinton Hollis, G, 6-2/So.; Rob Masters, F, 6-5/So.; Thomas Mobley, F, 6-5/So. (4.9 ppg, 78.9 FT%); Rudy Rothseiden, C, 6-8/Jr. (46.4 FG%, 100 3%); Joe Weurding, F, 6-6/So. (83.3 FT%, 40 3%).

Top newcomers: Shannon Chambers, F, 6-6/Fr.

(RS); Orloff Civil, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/Florida); Bernard Jackson, F, 6-6/So. (JC); Stanley Jackson, G, 6-2/Fr.; Tom McCloskey, F, 6-5/So.

(transfer/Navy); Cornelius Mitchell, G, 5-11/Fr.

Outlook: After beating Richmond and TCU and nearly upsetting Georgetown and North Carolina, the Cougars struggled in league play. As a result, they were shut out of the postseason for the sec-

ond straight year. Their defense continues to be among the nation's best, but their underachieving halfcourt attack must return to its transition roots with the loss of star Lumpkin. Adding athletic newcomers should make the Cougars a more up-tempo squad. Mitchell could supplant Harris at the point and improve the perimeter game. Don't be surprised if Kresse's masterful coaching and the league tournament moving to the North Charleston Coliseum put this team back in the NCAA Tournament.

Last league title: 2001 (South Division).

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Charleston S.C. **Home court:** North Charleston Coliseum (12,500).

Website: www.cougars.coifc.edu

3. Chattanooga

National Rank: 209

Coach: Henry Dickerson (56-59, 4 years).

Starters lost (2): Idris Harper, G (9.4 ppg); Oliver Morton, C (12.1 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 51.1 FG%).

Others lost: Rongie Cowser, G; Jamal Ward, G.

Starters returning (3): Clyde McCully, G, 6-0/Sr.

(8.4 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.7 spg); Michael Townsend, F, 6-7/Sr. (51.1 FG%); Toot Young, G, 6-3/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 4 rpg, 1.6 spg, 84.2 FT%).

Other returnees: Neil Ashby, F, 6-8/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 1.8 bpg, 46.3 FG%); Brian Dickerson, G, 5-11/Jr.; Tim Parker, G, 6-5/Jr. (7.7 ppg, 75.9 FT%); Dusty Pullian, F, 6-8/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 72.1 FG%); Bryan Richardson, G, 6-5/So. (4 ppg); J.B. Watkins, 5-11/Jr.

Top newcomers: Chris Bishop, F, 6-6/Fr. (RS); Nick Benson, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Tim Harris, F, 6-6/Jr.

(RS); Aaron Morgan, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Petie Spaulding, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Last season's Jekyll-and-Hyde team looked unbeatable one night and confused the next, but it reached the league tourney title game. Some of that inconsistency can be attributed to an influx of junior college players. This season coach Henry Dickerson again will have to blend JC transfers with a core of experienced returnees. The Mocs will miss Morton, one of the league's best centers. Ashby is expected to return after some academic problems to give the Mocs an athletic man in the middle. Sharpshooter Young will pair with solid McCully in one of the league's top backcourts. The Mocs have the talent to vie for the division title, but this is a team with a high-octane offense that at times forgets to play defense.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Chattanooga, Tenn. **Home court:** McKenzie Arena (11,218). **Website:** www.gomocs.com

4. The Citadel

National Rank: 223

Coach: Pat Dennis (105-142, 9 years).

Starters lost (1): Mike Roy, G (6.1 ppg, 4.3 apg, 1.4 spg).

Others lost: None

Starters returning (4): Travis Cantrell, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.7 ppg, 1.3 spg, 83.7 FT%); Romas Krywonis, F, 6-6/Jr. (6.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Alan Puckett, F, 6-3/Sr.

Rick Nelson
The (Charleston) Post and Courier
Predictions

North

1. UNC Greensboro*
2. Davidson
3. East Tennessee St.
4. Appalachian St.
5. Western Carolina
6. VMI

South

1. Georgia Southern
2. College of Charleston
3. Chattanooga
4. The Citadel
5. Furman
6. Wofford

*NCAA tourney pick

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Courtney Eldridge, UNC Greensboro	5-10	188	Sr.
G	Julius Jenkins, Georgia Southern	6-2	175	Jr.
F	Jeff Bolton, Col. of Charleston	6-3	170	Sr.
F	Karim Souchu, Furman	6-7	210	Jr.
F	Kashien Latham, Ga. Southern	6-9	230	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Sean Peterson, Georgia Southern	6-1	165	Sr.
G	Toot Young, Chattanooga	6-3	175	Sr.
G	Dimeco Childress, East Tenn. St.	6-3	175	Sr.
F	David Schuck, UNC Greensboro	6-7	211	Sr.
F	Cory Largent, Western Carolina	6-7	205	Sr.

Player of the Year

Karim Souchu, Furman

Newcomer of the Year

Chris McFarland, F, Appalachian State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Toot Young, Chattanooga

Best rebounder: Kashien Latham, Georgia Southern

Best playmaker: Sean Peterson, Georgia Southern

Best defender: Courtney Eldridge, UNC Greensboro

Best dunker: Jeff Bolton, College of Charleston

Most versatile: Karim Souchu, Furman

Most flamboyant: Jeff Bolton, College of Charleston

Best NBA prospect: Karim Souchu, Furman

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
North				
East Tenn. State	13	3	18	10
UNC Greensboro*	10	6	19	11
Davidson	7	9	15	17
Appalachian State	7	9	11	20
VMI	5	11	9	19
Western Carolina	3	13	6	25
South				
Coll. of Charleston	12	4	22	7
The Citadel	9	7	16	12
Chattanooga	9	7	17	13
Georgia Southern	9	7	15	15
Wofford	7	9	12	16
Furman	5	11	10	16

*Lost to Stanford, 89-60, in NCAA West first round.

(10.6 ppg, 1 spg, 40.3 3%); Cliff Washburn, F/C, 6-6/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 50.8 FG%).

Other returnees: Michael Joseph, F/G, 6-4/Jr.

(8 ppg, 1.1 spg); Gregg Jones, C, 6-7/Jr. (5.2 ppg, 1.3 bpg, 66.7 FG%); Kenny Milford, G, 6-0/Jr.; Max Mombollet, F/C, 6-8/So. (4.6 ppg, 4.6 rpg); Erick Wilson, G, 6-0/So.; Clyde Wormley, G/F, 6-4/Jr.

Top newcomers: Michael Vega, G, 6-4/Fr.; Sewell Setzer, F, 6-6/Fr. (RS).

Outlook: The Bulldogs return nearly everyone from one of the most successful seasons in school history, but taking the next step will be difficult. The team won six games by 2 points or less last season, including buzzer-beaters against Georgia Southern and Chattanooga. The Bulldogs have good team chemistry, though, and Cantrell and Puckett can rain 3s in bunches. Washburn has become a physical presence in the middle. If Krywonis and Mombollet continue to improve, the Bulldogs will have a tough trio inside. Jones and Joseph are the kind of athletes the Bulldogs need to compete in the conference. Milford is the likely successor to the steady Roy at point guard, a move that should make the team a little quicker.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home court:** McAlister Field House (6,000). **Website:** www.citadelsports.com

5. Furman

National Rank: 244

Coach: Larry Davis (45-70, 4 years).

Starters lost (1): Marcus Dilligard, F (5.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 42.5 FG%, 40 3%).

Others lost: P.J. Brown, G; Willie Brown, G.

Starters returning (4): Guilherme Da Luz, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 5.9 apg); Karim Souchu, F, 6-7/Jr. (18.9 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 45.8 FG%); Anthony Thomas, G, 6-4/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 38.5 3%); Kenny Zeigler, F/C, 6-5/Jr. (10.2 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 53.8 FG%).

Other returnees: Evan Aldrich, G, 6-1/ So.; Paul Foster, G, 6-1/Sr.; Maleye Ndoeye, F, 6-8/So. (48.1 FG%); Marijan Pojatina, C, 6-10/So.; Jorge Seraphim, G/F, 6-5/So.; Matt Sides, G, 6-2/So. **Top newcomers:** Ryan Chancellor, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Paco Gonzalez, F, 6-7/Fr.; Jason Patterson, G, 6-4/Fr.; Cedrick Price, C, 6-9/Fr.; Nick Sanders, F, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: Souchu is one of conference's top players, but he needs some help if the Paladins are going to get to .500 for the first time in 10 years. Da Luz is a big point guard who can post up smaller players and is one of the conference's best at his position. The Paladins need help in the post, where the athletic Zeigler was overwhelmed at times last season playing out of position at center. He should get some relief from Ndoeye, Pojatina and Price. The rookies and role players must add scoring punch to a squad that is sound defensively but lacks offensive depth.

Last league title: 1991 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1980.

Site: Greenville, S.C. **Home court:** Timmons Arena (5,000). **Website:** www.furmanpaladins.com

6. Wofford

National Rank: 300

Coach: Richard Johnson (225-212, 16 years).

Starters lost (2): Ian Chadwick, G (20.4 ppg, 1.2 spg, 78.4 FT%); Jon Pryor, F (6.9 ppg); Bishop Ravenel, F (7.8 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.3 spg, 50.3 FG%).

Others lost: Brandon Boyce, C; Terenthial White, F.

Starters returning (3): Kenny Hastie, C, 6-8/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.8 bpg, 47.7 FG%); Mike Lenzly, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.6 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 47.3 FG%, 35.9 3%); Lee Nixon, G, 6-4/Jr. (10.1 ppg, 1.3 spg).

Other returnees: Wilky Colin, G, 6-4/So.; David Eaton, G, 6-3/So.; Edvin Masic, C, 6-10/Jr.; Grant Sterley, F, 6-7/Jr. (4.9 ppg).

Top newcomers: Adrien Borders, G, 6-0/Fr.; Sam

Daniels, F, 6-9/Fr.; Edmond Davis, G, 5-10/So. (transfer/LSU); Justin Stephens, G, 6-2/Fr.; Jeff Tarr, F, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: No team in the league feels the loss of one player more than Wofford, which will be without three-time all-conference guard Chadwick. Losing the league's top scorer and career 3-point leader—as well as Ravenel and Pryor—will test Johnson's abilities—and his patience. He will look for more scoring from Nixon and Lenzly. Hastie is the lone senior on a squad that could have a trio of untested players competing for Chadwick's shooting guard spot. Sterley, Masic and newcomer Daniels must help with rebounding, a weakness last season. Sterley is a good 3-point shooter who could help spread the floor.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Spartanburg, S.C. **Home court:** Benjamin Johnson Arena (3,500). **Website:** www.wofford.edu/athletics

NORTH DIVISION

1. UNC Greensboro

National Rank: 101

Coach: Fran McCaffery (34-25, 2 years; 83-64 overall, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (1): Nathan Jameson, G (10.7 ppg, 89.5 FT%, 39.9 3%).

Others lost: Geoff Williams, F.

Starters returning (4): Courtney Eldridge, G, 5-10/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 5.8 apg, 2.7 spg); Jay Joseph, G/F, 6-4/So. (13.3 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.4 spg, 45.1 FG%, 79 FT%); Nathan Popp, C, 7-2/So. (1.4 bpg); David Schuck, F, 6-7/Sr. (14.5 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 1.6 spg, 47.5 FG%, 79.6 FT%).

Other returnees: Luke Boytue, F, 6-7/Jr. (60.6 FG%, 80 FT%); Tizzo Johnson, F, 6-6/So.; Sean McCarthy, C, 6-11/So. (45 FG%); James Maye, F, 6-6/Sr. (RS); Ronnie Taylor, G, 6-1/So. (9 ppg, 1.2 spg, 51.5 FG%, 75 FT%); Peter Tsampas, F, 6-8/So.

Top newcomers: Ronnie Burrell, F, 6-7/Fr.; Josh Gross, F, 6-5/Fr.; Danny Hargroue, G, 6-3/Fr.

Outlook: The Spartans could be the team to beat in the conference, with 10 players returning to a squad that won last season's league tournament. The inside-outside tandem of Schuck and Eldridge will be asked to provide senior leadership to a sophomore class that includes Joseph, the league's freshman of the year, and Taylor. Rebounding was a problem last season without the injured Maye, but his return and the maturation of post players Popp and McCarthy should take some of the load off Schuck. The highly regarded Johnson is expected to have an impact after missing his rookie year with a knee injury.

Last league title: 1996 (Big South).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Greensboro, N.C. **Home court:** Fleming Gym (2,320). **Website:** www.uncgspartans.com

2. Davidson

National Rank: 153

Coach: Bob McKillop (184-161, 12 years).

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: Jason Dickens, F (10.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 50 FG%, 75.6 FT%).

Starters returning (5): Wayne Bernard, G, 6-3/Jr. (13.7 ppg, 76.8 FT%); Emeka Eregbe, F, 6-5/Sr.

(11.9 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 49 FG%, 46.2 3%, 78.8 FT%); Martin Ides, C, 7-2/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 46.2 FG%); Chris Pearson, F, 6-9/Jr. (7.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg); Fernando Tonella, G, 5-10/Sr. (5.0 ppg, 77.3 FT%).

Other returnees: Peter Anderer, G, 6-1/Jr.

(6 ppg, 80.6 FT%); Nick Booker, G/F, 6-5/So. (4.3 ppg); Michael Bree, G, 6-0/Sr. (5.4 ppg); Jarred Cochran, G, 6-1/Jr. (50 3%); Jouni Eho, F, 6-6/So. (4.1 ppg); Jason Ford, G, 6-1/So. (4.7 ppg, 40.9 3%); Terrell Ivory, G, 6-1/So.; Michel Lusakuono, F, 6-10/Jr.

Top newcomers: Eric Blancett, G, 6-3/Fr.; Conor Grace, F, 6-8/Fr.

Outlook: After suffering their first losing season since 1991-92, the Wildcats appear to be finished with their one-year rebuilding process. Bernard and Pearson form a veteran backcourt. Eregbe is a good inside-outside player. The team's strength is its size. The Wildcats can go with a huge front line in Ides, Dickens and Pearson. Lusakuono, a native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has raw talent and adds to the squad's international flavor. McKillop's teams love the 3-pointer, so look for the accurate Eho to get more minutes.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Davidson, N.C. **Home court:** Belk Arena (5,700). **Website:** www.davidson.edu

3. East Tennessee State

National Rank: 187

Coach: Ed DeChellis (67-72, 5 years).

Starters lost (3): Renaldo Johnson, F (8.8 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 57.1 FG%); D.J. McDuffie, G (8.7 ppg, 1.4 spg); Adrian Meeks, F (7.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 50 FG%).

Others lost: Ryan Carson, G (45.2 FG%); Paul Reed, F.

Starters returning (2): Dimeco Childress, G, 6-3/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 4 rpg, 1.2 spg, 76.2 FT%, 37 3%); Cliff Decoster, G, 6-1/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 1.9 spg).

Other returnees: Jerald Fields, F, 6-6/So.

(6.5 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 55.2 FG%, 42.1 3%); Ryan Lawson, G, 6-2/Jr. (7.6 ppg, 1.5 spg, 77.1 FT%, 38.6 3%); Sam Oatman, G, 6-1/So.; Jon Perry, G, 6-1/Sr.; Isaac Potter, F, 6-6/Jr.; Cory Seels, C, 6-9/So. (50.7 FG%); Zakee Wadood, F, 6-6/So.

Top newcomers: James Anthony, G, 6-3/Fr.; Keeton Brooks, G, 6-4/Fr.; Michael Toliver, G, 6-1/Fr.; Tiras Wade, G, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: Last season's surprise team could take a step backward, as three of its top five scorers are gone and its leading rebounder. Senior leadership will come from the backcourt of Childress, an all-conference guard, and point man Decoster. Four others who averaged double-digit minutes also return, including 3-point specialist Lawson and backup point guard Oatman. The Bucs led the league in field-goal percentage defense last season, but they must improve their conference-worst free-throw shooting (.616). The season could hinge on how well last season's freshman class and the five newcomers perform.

Last league title: 1992 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Johnson City, Tenn. **Home court:** Memorial Center (13,000). **Website:** www.etsubucs.com

4. Appalachian State

National Rank: 232

Coach: Houston Fancher (11-20, 1 year;

Schedules

Appalachian St.

N16 at Richmond
N19 East Carolina
N24 Barton
N26 at Charlotte
N29 at Tennessee
D1 Liberty
D5 at Clemson
D13 North Greenville
D20 at TCU
D30 at UNC Asheville
J2 at East Tenn. St.
J5 at UNC Greensb.
J7 Georgia Southern
J12 Chattanooga
J14 Western Carolina
J19 at Furman
J21 VMI
J23 Gardner Webb
J26 at The Citadel
J28 at West. Carolina
F2 Davidson
F4 at VMI
F9 at Coll. of Char.
F11 Wofford
F16 at Davidson
F18 UNC Greensboro
F23 East Tenn. State

Chattanooga

N17 Tenn. Wesleyan
N21-26 Hawaii Pac. Trn.
N29 at Murray State
D1 at Kent State
D3 at Alabama
D15 Illinois State
D18 Bluefield State
D20 at Arkansas
D22 Murray State
D29-30 Dr Pepper Cla.
J2 UNC Greensboro

J5 C. of Charleston
J8 at Davidson
J12 at Appalachian St.
J14 Wofford
J19 at The Citadel
J21 Furman
J26 at East Tenn. St.
J28 at Ga. Southern
F2 The Citadel
F4 at Wofford
F9 at Furman
F11 VMI
F16 at Coll. of Char.
F18 Georgia Southern
F23 Western Carolina

The Citadel

N19 Flagler
N23 at N.C. State
N26 William & Mary
N29 Navy
D1 at Char. Southern
D5 Emmanuel
D8 Davidson
D10 at Philand. Smith
D17 Greensboro
D20 at South Carolina
D29 Coastal Carolina
J2 at S. Carolina St.
J5 East Tenn. State
J7 at Wofford
J12 at W. Carolina
J14 Georgia Southern
J19 Chattanooga
J21 at Coll. of Char.
J26 Appalachian St.
J28 at Furman
F2 at Chattanooga
F4 C. of Charleston
F9 at UNC Greensb.
F11 Furman
F16 at Ga. Southern
F18 at VMI

F23 Wofford
C. of Charleston
N16 at Char. Southern
N20 Stetson
N24 Francis Marion
N28 at American
D1 Coastal Carolina
D8 Belmont Abbey
D21-22 Trn. of Champ.
D28-29 State Farm Cl.
J2 Wofford
J5 at Chattanooga
J7 East Tenn. State
J12 at Wofford
J14 at Furman
J19 at VMI
J21 The Citadel
J26 Georgia Southern
J26 at UNC Greens.
F2 Furman
F4 at The Citadel
F9 Appalachian St.
F11 at W. Carolina
F16 Chattanooga
F18 Davidson
F23 at Geo. Southern

Davidson

N16 at Charlotte
N20 at North Carolina
N23 Oglethorpe
N26 at Texas A&M
D1 Navy
D4 Elon
D8 at The Citadel
D16 Wash. & Jeff.
D19 Georgia Tech*
D22 at Pennsylvania
D29 Hamilton
J2 Duke*
J5 at W. Carolina
J8 Chattanooga

J12 at Furman
J16 VMI
J19 East Tenn. State
J23 at UNC Greensb.
J26 Western Carolina
J30 Wofford
F2 at Appal'chian St.
F5 UNC Greensboro
F9 at East Tenn. St.
F13 Georgia Southern
F16 Appalachian St.
F19 at Coll. of Char.
F23 at VMI
*at Charlotte.

East Tenn. State

N16 Guilford College
N18 at Virginia
N20 at VCU
N26 at South Carolina
N28 at UNC Asheville
D4 at Coastal Caro.
D8 Radford
D15 James Madison
D17 Shenandoah
D19 Virginia-Wise
D22 at Vanderbilt
J2 Appalachian St.
J5 at The Citadel
J7 at Coll. of Char.
J12 VMI
J14 at UNC Greens.
J19 at Davidson
J23 Wofford
J26 Chattanooga
J30 at VMI
F2 Georgia Southern
F4 at W. Carolina
F9 Davidson
F12 UNC Greensboro
F16 Western Carolina
F18 at Furman
F23 at Appal'chian St.

Furman

N16 at Georgia
N20 Asbury
N26 at Campbell
N28 Methodist
D1 Campbell
D4 UNC Asheville
D8 Emory
D15 at Wisconsin
D19 at Saint Louis
D28-29 Poinsettia Cla.
J2 Georgia Southern
J5 at Wofford
J7 at W. Carolina
J12 Davidson
J14 C. of Charleston
J19 Appalachian St.
J21 at Chattanooga
J26 at VMI
J28 The Citadel
F2 at Coll. of Char.
F4 at Ga. Southern
F9 Chattanooga
F11 at The Citadel
F16 Wofford
F18 East Tenn. State
F23 at UNC Greensb.

Ga. Southern

N16 North Georgia
N19 Gardner Webb
N21 at Georgia
N24 at Wichita State
N29 Illinois State
D1 at UNLV
D4 at Gardner Webb
D6 at Savannah St.
D8 Mercer
D17 Albany State
J2 at Furman
J5 VMI
J12 at Appalachian St.
J16 UNC Greensboro

J14 at The Citadel
J19 Wofford
J21 Western Carolina
J26 at Coll. of Char.
J28 Chattanooga
J30 Savannah State
F2 at East Tenn. St.
F4 Furman
F9 at Wofford
F13 at Davidson
F16 The Citadel
F18 at Chattanooga
F23 C. of Charleston

UNC Greensboro

N19 at UNC Asheville
N24 at Mid. Tenn. St.
N27 at Elon
D1 Saint Peter's
D5 East Carolina
D8 Delaware
D10 at Arkansas
D20 Norfolk State
D22 at New Mexico
D29 at Ohio State
J2 at Chattanooga
J5 Appalachian St.
J8 at VMI
J12 at Ga. Southern
J14 East Tenn. State
J16 N. Carolina A&T
J19 at W. Carolina
J23 Davidson
J26 at Wofford
J28 Charleston
F2 Western Carolina
F5 at Davidson
F9 The Citadel
F12 at East Tenn. St.
F16 VMI
F18 at Appalachian St.
F23 Furman

VMI

N16 Mary Washington
N28 at Morehead St.
D3 at Virginia Tech
D5 at Kentucky
D8 St. Mary's
D12 Charl. Southern
D15 East Mennonite
D22 at Villanova
D28-29 Richmond Trn.
J2 Western Carolina
J5 at Ga. Southern
J8 UNC Greensboro
J12 at East Tenn. St.
J16 at Davidson
J19 C. of Charleston
J21 at Appalachian St.
J24 at Virginia
J26 Furman
J30 East Tenn. St.
F2 at Wofford
F4 Appalachian St.
F9 at W. Carolina
F11 at Chattanooga
F16 at UNC Greensb.
F18 The Citadel
F23 Davidson

West. Carolina

N19 Tenn. Wesleyan
N24 at Coastal Caro.
N26 Toccoa Falls
N28 Emmanuel
D1 UNC Asheville
D6 at Stetson
D8 at Florida State
D11 TBA
D19 at Kansas State
D21 at Wichita State
D29 at E. Michigan
J2 at VMI
J5 Davidson
J7 Furman

J12 The Citadel
J14 at Appalachian St.
J19 UNC Greensboro
J21 at Geo. Southern
J26 at Davidson
J28 Appalachian St.
F2 at UNC Greens.
F4 East Tenn. State
F9 VMI
F11 Coll. of Char.
F16 at East Tenn. St.
F18 at Wofford
F23 at Chattanooga

Wofford

N13 Guardians Cl.
N17 Toccoa Falls
N24 at Clemson
N26 Florida A&M
N29 South Carolina
D2 at Nebraska
D5 at NC State
D8 Emmanuel
D15 Va. Intermont
D17 Reinhardt
D20 at Georgia Tech
J2 at Coll. of Char.
J5 Furman
J7 The Citadel
J12 Coll. of Char.
J14 at Chattanooga
J19 at Geo. Southern
J23 at East Tenn. St.
J26 UNC Greensboro
J30 at Davidson
F2 VMI
F4 Chattanooga
F9 Georgia Southern
F11 at Appalachian St.
F16 at Furman
F18 Western Carolina
F23 at The Citadel

55-61 overall, 4 years).

Starters lost: None

Others lost: Josh Hare, F.; Michael Patten, F.

Starters returning (5): Noah Brown, G,

6-1/So. (7.9 ppg, 1 spg); Jonathan Butler, G, 5-11/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 1.2 spg, 36.5 %); Matt Jones, G, 6-3/So. (5.3 ppg, 81.6 FT%); Donald Payne, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 5.6 ppg, 52.5 FG%); Josh Shehan, C, 6-9/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 65.1 FG%).

Other returnees: Brian Boxler, C, 6-11/So.

(50.7 FG%, 75 FT%); Buddy Davis, F, 6-6/Sr. (5 ppg); Charles Dearmon, G, 6-2/Sr. (4.3 ppg); Hal Kivette, G, 6-1/So.

Top newcomers: Graham Bunn, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC); Nate Carson, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Corwin Davis, G, 6-0/Fr.; Shawn Hall, G, 5-9/Jr. (JC); Chris McFarland, G, 6-5/Fr.; Ahmad Smith, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Fancher had to retool the team in his first season, and there were the usual potholes along the way. But he has assembled a talented cast, led by third-team all-conference picks Shehan and Payne. The Mountaineers were good at grabbing missed shots, leading the league in rebounding margin, but they had trouble making their own shots and finished last in scoring. Fancher has one of the conference's better recruiting classes, and McFarland could be the league's top freshman.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Boone, N.C. **Home court:** Holmes Center (8,325). **Website:** www.goaps.com

5. Western Carolina

National Rank: 283

Coach: Steve Shurina (6-25, 1 year).

Starters lost: None.

Others lost: Ricky Gandy, G/F (7.5 ppg, 36.6 %); Todd Seibert, C.

Starters returning (5): Rans Brempong, F/C, 6-8/So. (7.4 ppg, 5.7 rpg); Willie Freeman, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.8 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 46.4 FG%); Kori Hatcher, G, 5-9/Jr. (6.5 ppg); Cory Largent, F, 6-7/Sr. (15.8 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 38.4 %, 75.7 FT%); Casey Rogers, G, 6-0/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 4.5 apg, 76.3 FT%).

Other returnees: Emre Atsur, G, 6-2/So.

Top newcomers: L.T. Lockett, G, 5-9/Fr.; Kevin Martin, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Alexander Osipovitch, F, 6-8/So.; Lamont Speaks, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Kelvin Wyle, F, 6-7/Sr. (transfer/Gardner Webb).

Outlook: The Catamounts have nowhere to go but up after finishing last in scoring defense and rebounding and next to last in offense last season. Rogers, who was seventh in the nation in assists two years ago, and all-conference forward Largent are the heart of the team. Brempong was the league's top shot blocker as a freshman with a school-record 93 blocks. Shurina went for size in recruiting and came up with a group that includes big man Speaks and the versatile Martin, who was fourth in Ohio's Mr. Basketball voting.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Cullowhee, N.C. **Home court:** Ramsey Center (7,826). **Website:** www.catamountsports.com

6. VMI

National Rank: 308

Coach: Bart Bellairs (80-112, 7 years; 93-139 overall, 9 years).

Starters lost (3): Richard Bruce, G (6.4 ppg, 1.2 spg); Eric Mann, F (13.2 ppg, 10.5 rpg, 1.5 spg, 2.0 bpg, 50.8 FG%); Nick Richardson, F (13.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 46.2 FG%).

Others lost: Jeremy Harper, G (6.6 ppg); Adam Trombley, F (5.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg).

Starters returning (2): Richard Little, G, 5-10/So. (4.0 ppg); Radee Skipworth, F, 6-6/So. (9.5 ppg).

Other returnees: Zach Batte, F, 6-9/Jr.; Tim Cole, C, 6-9/Sr.; Mike Gilbert, F, 6-8/Jr.; Mark Grigsby, G, 6-2/Sr.; Chad Kenna, F, 6-4/Sr.; Renard Phillips, G, 5-7/Sr.; Daron Pressley, G, 6-0/So. (9 ppg, 81 FT%).

Top newcomers: Tim Allmond, C, 6-8/Fr.; Preston Beverly, F, 6-6/Fr.; Jason Conley, F, 6-4/Fr.; Esau Eatman, F, 6-7/Fr.; Sam Mielnik, F, 6-6; Ben Rand, G, 5-11/So. (transfer/VCU); Clint Zwayger, G, 6-5/Fr.

Outlook: If the Keydets are going to be better this season than last year's 9-19 squad, they must improve their shooting, which was the worst in the league. Skipworth, the team's top returning scorer, will be counted on even more. Little, a talented point guard, had one of the best assist-turnover ratios in the league last year. Newcomers Mielnik and Allmond will bolster the inside game.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1977.

Site: Lexington, Va. **Home court:** Cameron Hall. **Website:** athletics.vmi.edu

OHIO VALLEY

1. Tennessee Tech

National Rank: 106

Coach: Jeff Lebo (48-36, 4 years).

Starters lost (1): Larrie Smith, C (16.3 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 1.9 spg, 57.9 FG%, 77 FT%).

Others lost (1): Trey Ferguson, G.

Starters returning (4): DeAntoine Beasley, F, 6-5/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.1 spg, 48.7 FG%, 77.4 FT%); Leigh Gayden, G, 5-9/Jr. (13.4 ppg, 4 apg, 85.2 FT%); Brent Jolly, G, 6-2/Jr. (12.6 ppg, 93.1 FT%, 38.1 3%); Joey Westmoreland, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.9 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.5 spg).

Other returnees: Cameron Crisp, G, 6-3/So.; Jason Harrell, F, 6-7/So.; Adonis Hart, C, 6-8/Sr.; Damien Perkins, F, 6-5/Jr. (RS); Ahmad Richardson, F/G, 6-5/So.

Top newcomers: Antwyon Jones, F, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Damien Kinloch, C, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/South Carolina); Greg Morgan, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: With the league's top backcourt in tow, the Golden Eagles would be the favorite even without a replacement for Smith. But Lebo can plug the hole with Kinloch, a part-time starter at South Carolina two years ago.

Last league title: 2001.

Last NCAA appearance: 1963.

Site: Cookeville, Tenn. **Homecourt:** Eblen Center (10,152). **Website:** www2.tntech.edu/athletics

2. Murray State

National Rank: 120

Coach: Tevester Anderson (67-27, 3 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (1): Isaac Spencer, F (21.6 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 48.8 FG%, 1.2 spg).

Others lost: Ray Cunningham, F (6 ppg, 50 FG%).

Starters returning (4): Andi Hornig, C, 7-0/So. (5 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 50 FG%, 1.8 bpg); Kevin Paschel, G, 5-11/Jr. (5.1 ppg); Chris Shumate, G, 6-6/Jr. (12.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 45.8 3%, 1.2 spg); Cuthbert Victor, F, 6-5/So. (6.2 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 56.5 FG%).

Other returnees: Chivalwe Bedeau, F, 6-7/Jr.; Justin Burdine, G, 6-1/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 40.3 3%, 1.5 spg); Roderick Thomas, F, 6-8/Sr.; Antione Whelchel, F, 6-5/Jr. (11.2 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 47.5 FG%). **Top newcomers:** Jamar Avant, F, 6-8/So. (Prop 48); Mark Borders, G, 6-0/Fr.; Antonio Henderson, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Rick Jones, C, 6-0/So. (JC); James Singleton, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: This might be the league's deepest team. Henderson is billed as a tremendous offensive player. Borders is capable of stepping in at the point, and Jones is an excellent shooter. Hornig showed some offensive development late last year.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Murray, Ky. **Home court:** Regional Special Events Center (8,600). **Website:** www.goracers.com

3. Eastern Illinois

National Rank: 158

Coach: Rick Samuels (296-280, 21 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (2): Matt Britton, G (13.2 ppg,

5.1 rpg, 5.2 apg, 1.7 spg, 83.6 FT%); Kyle Hill, G (23.8 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 4 apg, 1.4 spg, 47.3 FG%, 83.9 FT%, 43.2 3%).

Others lost: Merve Joseph, F; Eric Sandholm, G; Nate Schroeder, F.

Starters returning (3): Todd Bergmann, F, 6-8/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 58.3 FG%); Henry Domercant, F, 6-4/Jr. (22.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 49.3%, 81.6 FT%, 44.1 3%); Jan Thompson, C, 6-11/Jr.

Other returnees: Rod Henry, G, 6-3/So.; Chris Herrera, G, 5-9/So.; Ryan Kelly, F, 6-7/So.; Craig Lewis, G, 6-1/Jr.; Jesse Mackinson, F/C, 6-8/So. (5.5 ppg, 46.7 FG%); John Thorsen, F, 6-7/So.

Top newcomers: Andy Gobczynski, F, 6-6/Fr.; J.R. Reynolds, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Ramone Taylor, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); Jason Wright, G, 5-9/So. (Prop 48).

Outlook: After losing Hill and Britton to graduation, Samuels quickly shed the confetti from last year's NCAA Tournament appearance to find some guards to take pressure off Domercant, the nation's No. 4 scorer last season. Reynolds will play on the wing, with Taylor manning the point.

Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Charleston, Ill. **Home court:** Lantz Arena (4,500). **Website:** www.eiu.edu/~sptinfo

4. Morehead State

National Rank: 208

Coach: Kyle Macy (37-72, 4 years).

Starters lost (1): Greg Hendricks, G (11.5 ppg, 1.3 spg, 75.3 FT%, 35.2 3%).

Others lost: Levi Adams, C; Corey Seegers, F.

Starters returning (4): Ike Lopez, C, 6-8/Jr. (8.2 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 46.7 FG%); Ricky Minard, F, 6-4/So. (16.7 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.8 spg, 49.4 FG%, 78.6 FT%, 40 3%); Marquis Sykes, G, 5-11/Jr. (7.3 ppg, 5.3 apg, 1.8 spg, 78.2 FT%); Kyle Umberger, F, 6-6/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 49.5 FG%, 81.1 FT%).

Other returnees: David Aliu, F, 6-6/So. (5.8 ppg, 49 FG%, 36.5 3%); Andy Keating, G, 6-4/Sr.; Casey Lowe, G, 6-2/So.; Chez Marks, G, 6-2/So. (6.9 ppg, 77.8 FT%, 43.5 3%).

Top newcomers: Cory Burns, F, 6-9/Fr.; Kyle Hankins, G, 6-3/Fr.; Kalilou Kamara, F, 6-5/Fr.; Ramon Kelly, G, 6-4/Fr.; Chad McKnight, F, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: Macy finally might have a group that can start climbing the OVC ladder. Minard was the league's best freshman last year. Sykes is an excellent playmaker and defender. Umberger is a tireless worker who gets the most out of his talent.

Last league title: 1984.

Last NCAA appearance: 1984.

Site: Morehead, Ky. **Home court:** Johnson Arena (6,500). **Website:** www.morehead-st.edu/athletics

5. Tennessee-Martin

National Rank: 222

Coach: Bret Campbell (20-37, 2 years).

Starters lost (1): Hayden Prescott, F (11.3 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 49.2 FG%).

Others lost: Jared Bledsoe, G; Robert James, G.

Starters returning (4): Okechi Egbe, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (13.2 ppg, 48.4 FG%, 37.6 3%); Brian Foster, F,

Joey Fosko, Paducah (Ky.) Sun

Predictions

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tennessee Tech* | 6. Eastern Kentucky |
| 2. Murray State | 7. Austin Peay |
| 3. Eastern Illinois | 8. SE Missouri State |
| 4. Morehead State | 9. Tennessee State |
| 5. Tennessee-Martin | *NCAA tourney pick |

Preseason All-Conference

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Nick Stapleton, Austin Peay	6-1	165	Sr.
G	Leigh Gayden, Tennessee Tech	5-9	150	Jr.
G	Ricky Minard, Morehead State	6-4	188	So.
F	Henry Domercant, Eastern Illinois	6-4	200	Jr.
F	Brian Foster, Tennessee-Martin	6-5	225	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brent Jolly, Tennessee Tech	6-2	170	Jr.
G	Antonio Henderson, Murray State	6-1	185	Jr.
G	Shawn Fields, Eastern Kentucky	6-3	195	Jr.
F	Kyle Umberger, Morehead State	6-6	238	Sr.
F	Damien Kinloch, Tennessee Tech	6-8	220	Jr.

Player of the Year

Henry Domercant, Eastern Illinois

Newcomer of the Year

Antonio Henderson, Murray State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Henry Domercant, Eastern Illinois
Best rebounder: Antione Whelchel, Murray State
Best playmaker: Leigh Gayden, Tennessee Tech
Best defender: Marquis Sykes, Morehead State
Best dunker: Justin Burdine, Murray State
Most versatile: Jason Harrell, Tennessee Tech
Most flamboyant: Nick Stapleton, Austin Peay
Best NBA prospect: Henry Domercant, Eastern Illinois

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Tennessee Tech	13	3	20	9
Eastern Illinois*	11	5	21	10
Murray State	11	5	17	12
Austin Peay	10	6	22	10
Southeast Missouri	8	8	18	12
Tennessee State	7	9	10	19
Morehead State	6	10	12	16
Tennessee-Martin	5	11	10	18
Eastern Kentucky	1	15	7	19

*Lost to Arizona, 101-76, in NCAA Midwest first round.

6-5/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 52.2 FG%); Michael Jackson, G, 6-2/Sr. (7 ppg, 1.4 spg); Jeremy Sargent, F, 6-8/Sr. (9.9 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 1.9 bpg, 1 spg, 57.9 FG%).

Other returnees: Kenan Asceric, F, 6-9/Jr.; Donald Elder, F/C, 6-5/Sr.; Jermi Hampton, G, 5-9/Sr. (5 ppg, 48.4 FG%); Ned Rolmsa, C, 7-0/Sr. (40 3%); Jon Roos, G, 6-0/Jr. (1 spg).

Top newcomers: Adrian Higgs, G, 6-1/Fr.; Jeremy

Kelly, G, 6-4/Fr.; Brooks Smith, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); Joey Walker, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Campbell quietly has brought the Skyhawks up from the OVC depths. Foster can shoot, Egbe might be the OVC's best leaper and Jackson is one of the league's top playmakers. Sargent led the OVC in blocked shots last season.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Martin, Tenn. **Home court:** Skyhawk Arena (6,700). **Website:** www.utmsports.com

6. Eastern Kentucky

National Rank: 243

Coach: Travis Ford (7-19, 1 year; 74-40 overall, 4 years).

Starters lost (3): Lavis Jerry, F (17.8 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 1.2 spg, 46.8 FG%); Phillip Taylor, C (6.1 ppg, 6.3 rpg); John White, G (12.6 ppg, 4.2 apg, 1.2 spg, 78.3 FT%, 37.4 3%).

Others lost: Richard Gaston, F (4.7 ppg, 50 3%).

Starters returning (2): Spanky Parks, G, 6-3/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 1 spg); Clinton Sims, F, 6-3/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 1.2 spg, 38.5 3%).

Other returnees: Chris Carswell, C, 6-7/Sr. (4.5 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 45.6 FG%, 75 FT%).

Top newcomers: Jon Bentley, F/G, 6-9/So. (transfer/Marshall); Kenyatta Dix, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Shawn Fields, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/Georgia); Michael Haney, F/G, 6-6/Fr.; Johnny Hardwick, C, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Brett Howell, G, 6-1/Fr.; Ben Rushing, G, 5-11/Fr. (RS); Richard Sadler, C, 6-9/Fr.

Outlook: Ford has brought in some nice talent. Fields, a local product who played at Georgia as a freshman, could be an impact player in the OVC. Dix turned down offers from several higher-profile programs to play for Eastern.

Last league title: 1979.

Last NCAA appearance: 1979.

Site: Richmond, Ky. **Home court:** McBrayer Arena (6,500). **Website:** www.ekusports.com

7. Austin Peay

National Rank: 254

Coach: Dave Loos (161-155, 11 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (4): Trenton Hassell, F/G (21.7 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 4.5 apg, 48.5 FG%, 39 3%); Theanthony Haymon, F/C (10.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 66.7 FG%); Matt Jakeway, G (7.1 ppg, 43.5 3%); Joe Williams, C (13.9 ppg, 8 rpg, 1.7 spg, 57.8 FG%).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (1): Nick Stapleton, G, 6-1/Sr. (17.8 ppg, 46.4 FG%, 76.5 FT%, 36.6 3%).

Other returnees: Kevin Easley, G, 6-1/Sr.; Josh Lewis, C, 6-8/So.; Igor Macura, F, 6-7/Jr.; Gerrell Webster, G, 6-0/So.; Rhett Wierzbka, G, 6-4/So.

Top newcomers: Levi Carmichael, G, 6-0/Fr.; Anthony Davis, G, 6-2/Fr.; Bobby Hill, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Fred Marshall, F, 6-6/Fr.; Sean Prather, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Hassell's decision to leave early for the NBA puts the load squarely on Stapleton, a talented point guard. The rest of the roster is full of questions.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Clarksville, Tenn. **Home court:** Dave Aaron Arena (9,000). **Website:** www.apsu.edu/athletics

8. Southeast Missouri State

National Rank: 257

Coach: Gary Garner (76-41, 4 years; 323-205 overall, 18 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Starters lost (3): Emmanuel McCuthison, F (11.9 ppg, 5 rpg); Antonio Short, G (10.3 ppg, 39.6 3%); Michael Stokes, G (15 ppg, 4 rpg, 4.8 apg, 1.2 spg, 82.5 FT%).

Others lost: Nyah Jones, C (4.3 ppg); Terry Rogers, C (4.9 ppg); Amory Sanders, G (8.2 ppg, 55.8 3%).

Starters returning (2): Drew DeMond, C, 6-7/Jr. (5.8 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.7 bpg, 57.6 FG%, 77.2 FT%); Tim Scheer, G/F, 6-7/Jr. (6.8 ppg, 51.7 FG%, 35.8 3%).

Other returnees: Monte Gordon, F, 6-5/Sr.; Damarcus Hence, G, 6-6/So.; Matt Morris, G,

6-2/Sr. (RS); Joel Shelton, G, 5-9/So.; Daniel Weaver, C, 6-8/Jr. (4 ppg, 50 FG%, 75.8 FT%).

Top newcomers: Kostas Avgerinos, F/C, 7-1/So. (JC); Adam Crader, F/C, 6-11/Fr.; Bret Hale, G, 6-2/Fr.; Kenny Johnson, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Kevin Roberts, G, 6-3/Fr.; Derek Winans, G, 6-2/Fr. (RS).

Outlook: The Indians return less proven talent than anyone in the league. Southeast Missouri always plays tough defense, but Garner, considered the league's best X's and O's coach, has his work cut out for him. Defensive stalwart DeMond is a good bet to emerge as a scorer inside.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Cape Girardeau, Mo. **Home court:** Show Me Center (7,000). **Website:** www.gosoutheast.com

9. Tennessee State

National Rank: 266

Coach: Nolan Richardson III (10-19, 1 year).

Starters lost (3): Terrick Brown, G (8 ppg, 4.4 apg, 1.7 spg); John Gilmore, F (10 ppg, 6 rpg, 1.3 spg); Jamie Roberts, G (17.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.9 spg, 48.1 FG%, 41.6 3%, 81.8 FT%).

Others lost: Kevin Samuel, F (11.6 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.2 spg, 42.2 FG%, 34 3%).

Starters returning (2): Garrett Richardson, G, 6-3/So. (11.4 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 3.1 apg, 2.2 spg, 44.4 FG%, 34.4 3%); Kyle Rolston, F, 6-4/Sr. (11.8 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 1.3 spg, 50 FG%, 36.8 3%).

Other returnees: Olushula Ajanaku, F, 6-5/Jr.; Kellen Brandon, F, 6-7/So.; Rodrick James, G, 6-2/Sr.; Brandon Lockridge, G, 6-0/So.

Top newcomers: Roshawn Bowens, F, 6-6/Fr.; Brandon Turner, F, 6-7/Fr.

Outlook: Coach Richardson delivered on his promise of racehorse basketball, but the Tigers couldn't score enough points to offset their porous defense. It looks like another long season.

Last league title: 1995.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Nashville. **Home court:** Howard C. Gentry Complex (10,500). **Website:** www.tnstate.edu

Schedules

Austin Peay

N16-21 Paradise Jam
N26 Marian (Ind.)
N30-D1 First Merch. Cl.
D4 at Ark.-L. Rock
D8 W. Kentucky
D15 Ark.-Little Rock
D18 at Dayton
D20 Webster
D22 at Memphis
D29 at E. Kentucky
J3 Eastern Illinois
J5 at W. Kentucky
J10 Tenn.-Martin
J12 Murray State
J17 Tennessee Tech
J19 Tennessee State
J24 at Eastern Illinois
J26 at SE Missouri St.
J31 at Tenn.-Martin
F2 Eastern Kentucky
F4 Morehead State
F9 at Murray State
F14 at Tenn. State
F16 at Tenn. Tech
F18 at Morehead St.
F23 SE Missouri St.

Eastern Illinois

N16 St. Joseph's
N19 at Illinois

N22-24 Las Vegas Inv.
N28 Indiana State
D1 Augustana
D5 at Evansville
D8 at W. Illinois
D15 Loyola
D18 at Oklahoma
D22 at Ohio State
D29 at N. Illinois
J3 at Austin Peay
J5 SE Missouri St.
J10 Morehead State
J12 Eastern Kentucky
J14 Benedictine
J17 at Murray State
J19 at Tenn.-Martin
J24 Austin Peay
J31 at Tenn. Tech
F2 at Tennessee St.
F7 at E. Kentucky
F9 at Morehead St.
F14 Murray State
F16 Tenn.-Martin
F18 at SE Missouri St.
F21 Tennessee State
F23 Tennessee Tech

E. Kentucky

N17 Wilmington
N20 Western Illinois
N27 Marietta
D1 at Memphis
D4 at High Point

D8 at Dayton
D19 at W. Illinois
D26 at Louisville
J3 Tennessee Tech
J5 Tennessee State
J10 at SE Missouri St.
J12 at Eastern Illinois
J15 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
J19 at Morehead St.
J24 Tenn.-Martin
J26 Murray State
F2 at Austin Peay
F4 at Tenn. Tech
F7 Eastern Illinois
F9 SE Missouri St.
F11 at Tennessee St.
F16 Morehead State
F21 at Murray State
F23 at Tenn.-Martin
F28 Austin Peay

Morehead State

N16 at IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
N19 Shawnee State
N24 at Kentucky
N28 VMI
D1 at Dayton
D5 Wright State
D8 Asbury
D18 at IUPUI
D21 at Samford
D29 at Vanderbilt
J3 Tennessee State

J5 Tennessee Tech
J10 at Eastern Illinois
J12 at SE Missouri St.
J15 Ohio Dominican
J19 Eastern Kentucky
J24 Murray State
J26 Tenn.-Martin
J28 at Tennessee St.
F4 at Austin Peay
F7 SE Missouri St.
F9 Eastern Illinois
F12 at Tenn. Tech
F16 at E. Kentucky
F18 Austin Peay
F21 at Tenn.-Martin
F23 at Murray State

Murray State

N17 West Florida
N19 Colorado Springs
D21 at Miss. State
N24 at W. Kentucky
N29 Chattanooga
D1 UAB
D3 at Indiana State
D7-8 Jim Thorpe Cla.
D15 at Chattanooga
D22 Tennessee State
D29 Southern Illinois
J3 Tennessee-Martin
J5 Gardner-Webb
J10 at Tennessee Tech
J12 at Austin Peay

J17 Eastern Illinois
J19 SE Missouri St.
J24 at Morehead State
J26 at E. Kentucky
F2 at Tenn.-Martin
F4 at Tennessee St.
F7 Tennessee Tech
F9 Austin Peay
F14 at Eastern Illinois
F16 at SE Missouri St.
F21 Eastern Kentucky
F23 Morehead State

SE Missouri St.

N16 Birm. Southern
N24 at SW Missouri St.
N27 Ark.-Little Rock
D1 Western Illinois
D5 at Vanderbilt
D8 North Alabama
D15 at Saint Louis
D17 Miss. Valley St.
D22 at S. Illinois
D29 Lincoln
J2 at Western Illinois
J5 at Eastern Illinois
J7 Tennessee State
J10 Eastern Kentucky
J12 Morehead State
J17 at Tenn.-Martin
J19 at Murray State
J24 Tennessee Tech
J26 Austin Peay

J31 at Tenn. State
F2 at Tenn. Tech
F7 at Morehead St.
F9 at E. Kentucky
F14 Tenn.-Martin
F16 Murray State
F18 Eastern Illinois
F23 at Austin Peay

Tenn.-Martin

N13-21 Guardians Cl.
N19 Lipscomb
N29 St. Mary's
D3 Bethel
D6 at Middle Tenn.
D8 Northern Arizona
D16 at Mississippi
D21-22 Costner Bros. Tr.
D28 at Memphis
J3 at Murray State
J7 Berry
J10 at Austin Peay
J12 at Tennessee St.
J17 SE Missouri St.
J19 Eastern Illinois
J21 at Tenn. Tech
J24 at E. Kentucky
J26 at Morehead St.
J31 Austin Peay
F2 Murray State
F7 Tennessee State
F9 Tennessee Tech
F14 at SE Missouri St.

F16 at Eastern Illinois
F21 Morehead State
F23 Eastern Kentucky

Tennessee St.

N16 Trev. Nazarene
N24 Evansville
N27 Loyola-Chicago
D1 at E. Michigan
D4 Reinhart
D8 at New Mexico
D17 at Louisville
D21 at North Texas
D29 at Air Force
J3 at E. Kentucky
J5 at Morehead St.
J10 Murray State
J12 King College
J17 at Austin Peay
J21 Tenn.-Martin
J24 at SE Missouri St.
J26 at Tennessee St.
J31 Eastern Illinois
F2 SE Missouri St.
F4 Eastern Kentucky
F7 at Murray State
F9 at Tenn.-Martin
F12 Morehead State
F16 Austin Peay
F18 Tennessee State
F23 Eastern Illinois

Tennessee Tech

N16 at Tennessee
N20 South Carolina St.
N24 Bluefield
N27 Loyola-Chicago
D1 at E. Michigan
D4 Reinhart
D8 at New Mexico
D17 at Louisville
D21 at North Texas
D29 at Air Force
J3 at E. Kentucky
J5 at Morehead St.
J10 Murray State
J12 King College
J17 at Austin Peay
J21 Tenn.-Martin
J24 at SE Missouri St.
J26 at Tennessee St.
J31 Eastern Illinois
F2 SE Missouri St.
F4 Eastern Kentucky
F7 at Murray State
F9 at Tenn.-Martin
F12 Morehead State
F16 Austin Peay
F18 Tennessee State
F23 Eastern Illinois

ATLANTIC SUN

(Formerly the Trans America Athletic Conference)

1. Georgia State

National Rank: 45

Coach: Charles "Lefty" Driesell (79-42, 4 years; 762-377, 39 years overall; 16-14 NCAA Tourn. record).

Key players: Bam Campbell, F, 6-5/Sr. (5.8 ppg); Darryl Cooper, G, 6-3/Jr. (12.7 ppg); Leroy Davis, G, 6-4/Jr.; Thomas Terrell, F, 6-7/Sr. (16.4 ppg, 7.5 rpg).

Outlook: Yes, the Panthers will miss Shernard Long and Kevin Morris and their 31 points per game. But not for long. Terrell is the A-Sun's top returning scorer, and Campbell plays big in big games. Add Leroy Davis, a JC transfer who committed to Louisville before Denny Crum's exit, and five more newcomers who can play, and you can pencil in a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

Last league title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA tournament: 2000.

Site: Atlanta. **Home court:** GSU Sports Arena (5,500). **Website:** www.georgiastate.com

2. Troy State

National Rank: 134

Coach: Don Maestri (316-222, 19 years).

Key players: Ben Fletcher, G, 6-3/Jr.; Lacedrick Pettway, C, 6-6/Jr.; Robert Rushing, G, 6-1/Sr. (14.5 ppg, 4.4 apg); Lemayn Wilson, F, 6-8/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 35.3 3%).

Outlook: Three starters are gone, but Rushing and Wilson proved they can take over games. Four JC players, including the versatile Pettway and solid-shooting Fletcher, have arrived. But they can't contribute solely on offense. The Trojans must repeat the tough defense that held teams to 41 percent shooting. With that defense and adequate shooting and rebounding, they should win most A-Sun games.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Troy, Ala. **Home court:** Trojan Arena (4,000).

Website: www.troyst.edu/athletics

3. Jacksonville

National Rank: 173

Coach: Hugh Durham (46-53, 4 years; 573-374, 33 years overall; 8-8 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Tabari Brown, F, 6-7/Jr. (45.3 FG%); Travis Robinson, G, 6-8/Jr.; Kevin Sheppard, G, 6-0/Jr. (9.2 ppg, 2.9 apg, 44.8 FG%).

Outlook: This is a team whose sum is better than its parts. The post is loaded with new talent with transfers Ryan Lewis (JC) and Calvin Warner (Eastern Michigan). Robinson, who averaged 15 points per game at Fresno State two years ago, will complement point guard Sheppard, who loves to shoot the 3. This team can overachieve if it continues to hold teams to 41 percent shooting.

Last league title: 1986 (Sun Belt).

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.

Site: Jacksonville, Fla. **Home court:** Swisher Gymnasium (1,500). **Website:** www.judolphins.com

4. Mercer

National Rank: 189

Coach: Mark Slonaker (35-68, 4 years).

Key players: Clarence Baker, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); Scott Emerson F/C, 6-9/Jr. (16.4 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 80 FT%); Justin Howard, G, 6-8/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 48 FG%).

Outlook: Emerson is a big guy and can play even big-

ger. His ability and Slonaker's coaching will make Mercer a contender, even without Wesley Duke (lost to a knee injury). The Bears will rely on Baker at the point. If the team hits its free throws (70 percent last season) and stays in games, it can pull out the close ones.

Last league title: 1985.

Last NCAA appearance: 1985.

Site: Macon, Ga. **Home court:** Macon Colis. (8,500), Porter Gym (500). **Website:** www.mercer.edu/athletics

5. Stetson

National Rank: 212

Coach: Derek Waugh (13-8, 1 year).

Key players: Eugene Ambrose, G, 6-4/So. (11.5 ppg, 37.4 3%); Ravii Givens, G, 5-9/Jr. (12.6 ppg, 6 apg, 1.6 spg); Santos Hampton, C, 6-7/Sr. (12.7 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 57.1 FG%).

Outlook: The Hatters lost team leader and top scorer Sebastian Singletary (14.4 ppg) but have their emotional leader back in Waugh, who took over at midseason. The team will be guard-oriented with Givens and Ambrose. But it won't have set roles; it could go with up to four guards.

Last league title: 1994.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: DeLand, Fla. **Home court:** Edmunds Center (5,000). **Website:** www.stetson.edu/offices/athletics

6. Samford

National Rank: 227

Coach: Jimmy Tillette (74-44, 4 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Cornell Felton, G, 5-11/Jr. (6.2 ppg); Sebastian Sachse, C, 6-8/So (4.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg); Chris Weaver, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 5 rpg, 3.7 apg).

Outlook: Just how low can Samford—TAAC champs in '99 and '00—fall? Maybe even lower than sixth after losing top scorers Marc Salyers (17.2 ppg) and Derrick Jones (13.8 ppg). Weaver is a solid shooter but is inconsistent. Felton must provide more than 6.2 points a game. The team led the league in shooting (46.8 percent), but it ranked only eighth in scoring (65.2 ppg). Defense alone won't win a title for Samford, which allowed only 63 points a game last season.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Birmingham, Ala. **Home court:** Seibert Hall (4,000). **Website:** www.samfordsports.com

7. Belmont

National Rank: 235

Coach: Rick Byrd (318-164, 15 years; 410-219, 20 years overall).

Key players: Wes Burtner, F, 6-5/Sr. (20.1 ppg, 39 3%, 5.1 rpg); B.J. Proffitt, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 4.1 apg); Adam Sonn, C, 6-8/Jr. (14.2 ppg, 9.4 rpg, 81 FT%).

Outlook: Belmont is new to the league but familiar to many teams—beating Samford and Stetson twice and Campbell once in the last three years. Burtner hit 38.8 percent of his 3-point shots—he launched 8.6 a game. Although the Bruins made 10-of-29 3s a game last season, they were only 3-4 when hitting more than 40 percent from long distance.

Last league title: Formerly an independent.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Nashville. **Home court:** Striplin Gymnasium (2,500). **Website:** www.belmont.edu/athletics

Bob Pockrass, Daytona Beach News-Journal

Preseason All-Conference team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ravii Givens, Stetson	5-9	165	Jr.
G	Robert Rushing, Troy State	6-1	170	Jr.
F	Lemayn Wilson, Troy State	6-8	210	Jr.
F	Thomas Terrell, Georgia State	6-7	240	Sr.
F/C	Scott Emerson, Mercer	6-9	235	Jr.

Player of the Year

Scott Emerson, Mercer

Newcomer of the Year

Leroy Davis, G, Georgia State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Adam Fellers, Campbell

Best rebounder: Santos Hampton, Stetson

Best playmaker: Ravii Givens, Stetson

Best defender: Robert Rushing, Troy State

Best dunker: Thomas Terrell, Georgia State

Most versatile: Lemayn Wilson, Troy State

Most flamboyant: Bam Campbell, Georgia State

Best NBA prospect: Scott Emerson, Mercer

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Georgia State*	16	2	29	5
Troy State	12	6	19	12
Stetson	11	7	17	12
Jacksonville	11	7	18	10
Samford	11	7	15	14
Mercer	10	8	13	15
Jacksonville State	6	12	9	19
Campbell	5	13	7	21
Florida Atlantic	5	13	7	24
UCF	3	15	8	23

*Lost to Maryland, 79-60, in NCAA West second round.

8. Central Florida

National Rank: 267

Coach: Kirk Speraw (108-125, 8 years).

Key players: Ed Dotson, F, 6-7/So. (RS); Joey Graham, G, 6-6/So. (8.5 ppg); Al Miller, G, 6-0/So. (4.8 apg); Paul Reed, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (14 ppg, 7.4 rpg).

Outlook: Leading scorer Reed returns for last season's last-place finishers, but Mario Lovett (10.1 ppg, 5.6 rpg) graduated, and guard Kevin Lee is ineligible. Graham and Miller will be forced to carry too much of the load unless Jason Thornton finds his shot—his 3-point shooting fell from 49.5 percent to 34.1 in one season. Finding some defense would help, too.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Orlando. **Home court:** UCF Arena (5,100).

Website: www.athletics.ucf.edu

9. Campbell

National Rank: 272

Coach: Billy Lee (203-245, 16 years; 324-333, 23 years overall).

Key players: Jonte Edwards, C, 6-7/Jr. (8 ppg, 5.4 rpg); Adam Fellers, G, 6-2/Sr. (15.5 ppg); Brooks Lee, G, 6-0/Jr.; Zydrunas Stankus, F, 6-5/Sr. (7.9 ppg).

Outlook: With Fellers and the transfer of Lee's son, Brooks, Campbell might be one of the more improved teams. But it always has zero margin for error. If the

Camels don't play their ball-control game perfectly, they end up on the short end of ugly scores.

Last league title: 1992.

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Buies Creek, N.C. **Home court:** Carter Gym. (945). **Website:** ww.campbell.edu/athletics

10. Florida Atlantic

National Rank: 277

Coach: Sidney Green (9-52, 2 years; 58-112, 6 years overall).

Key players: Raheim Brown, F, 6-10/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 5.5 rpg); Jeff Cowans, G, 6-2/So. (13.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg); Earnest Crumbley, G, 5-10/So. (11.7 ppg, 3.5 apg, 77.6 FT%).

Outlook: Cowans, the conference's top freshman last year, and classmate Crumbley could rule the A-Sun—in 2003-04. Practically everyone returns, but a team that shoots under 40 percent can't be taken seriously. Cowans and Crumbley must become better shooters, and Brown and mercurial Daryl Dingle must become bigger presences in the post.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Boca Raton, Fla. **Home court:** FAU Gymnasium (5,000). **Website:** www.fausports.com

11. Jacksonville State

National Rank: 310

Coach: Mike LaPlante (9-19, 1 year).

Key players: Emerson Brown, G, 6-2/So. (6.4 ppg) Ryan Chambless G-F, 6-2/Sr.; Jay Heard, G, 6-3/Jr.

Outlook: JSU must find some shooters, and that's not good news because it lost its top four scorers from a team that shot 41.3 percent from the field and 31.8 percent from the 3-point line. This team might not be the worst overall team in the league, but it won't be good enough to stop the top players from any other squad. Auburn transfer Heard will help this team, which must look at this season as a learning experience.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Jacksonville, Ala. **Home court:** Matthews Coliseum (5,500).

Website: www.jsugamecocksports.com

Schedules

Belmont

N16 at S. Illinois
N19 Valparaiso
N24 at Jacksonville
N26 Middle Tenn. St.
N29 Campbell
D1 Georgia State
D16 at Stetson
D18-19 Stanford Invit.
D28 at Navy
D30 at Florida
J5 Troy State
J7 Mercer
J10 at Jacksonville St.
J12 Samford
J17 at Cent. Florida
J19 at Fla. Atlantic
J26 Central Florida
J28 Florida Atlantic
F2 at Samford
F4 Jacksonville St.
F7 at Mercer
F9 at Troy State
F14 Stetson
F16 Jacksonville
F23 at Campbell

Campbell

N17 at Louisiana St.
N20 UNC Pembroke
N24 UNC Asheville
N26 Furman
N29 at Belmont
D1 at Furman
D12 at Georgia State
D19 Troy State

D21 at Coastal Car.
D29 at Florida State
J2 Mercer
J5 at Central Florida
J7 at Fla. Atlantic
J10 Jacksonville
J12 Stetson
J17 at Samford
J19 at Jacksonville St.
J23 Georgia State
J26 Samford
J28 Jacksonville St.
F2 at Jacksonville
F4 at Jacksonville
F7 Florida Atlantic
F9 Central Florida
F14 at Troy State
F16 at Mercer
F23 Belmont

Florida Atlantic

N17 at Hofstra
N20 St. Mary's (Md.)
N26 at Miami (Fla.)
N29 Stetson
D1 Central Florida
D4 at Liberty
D8 at Va. Common.
D17 at Samford
D19 at Jacksonville St.
J2 Jacksonville
J5 Georgia State
J7 Campbell
J10 at Mercer
J12 at Troy State
J16 at Birm. Southern
J19 Belmont
J22 at Cent. Florida
J28 at Belmont
F2 Troy State
F4 Mercer
F7 at Campbell
F9 at Georgia State
F14 Jacksonville St.
F16 Samford
F21 at Jacksonville
F23 at Stetson

Central Florida

N19 at Hampton
N24 at East Carolina
N29 Jacksonville
D1 at Fla. Atlantic
D8 Florida A&M
D13 Chicago State
D17 at Jacksonville St.
D19 at Samford
D22 at Marist
J2 Stetson
J5 Campbell
J7 Georgia State
J10 at Troy State
J12 at Mercer
J17 Belmont
J22 Florida Atlantic
J26 at Belmont

J29 South Florida
F2 Mercer
F4 Troy State
F7 at Georgia State
F9 Campbell
F14 Samford
F16 Jacksonville St.
F21 at Stetson
F23 at Jacksonville

Florida Atlantic

N17 at Hofstra
N20 St. Mary's (Md.)
N26 at Miami (Fla.)
N29 Stetson
D1 Central Florida
D4 at Liberty
D8 at Va. Common.
D17 at Samford
D19 at Jacksonville St.
J2 Jacksonville
J5 Georgia State
J7 Campbell
J10 at Mercer
J12 at Troy State
J16 at Birm. Southern
J19 Belmont
J22 at Cent. Florida
J28 at Belmont
F2 Troy State
F4 Mercer
F7 at Campbell
F9 at Georgia State
F14 Jacksonville St.
F16 Samford
F21 at Jacksonville
F23 at Stetson

Georgia State

N17 Valdosta
N24 at C. Michigan

N27 Char. Southern
D1 at Belmont
D4 Georgia
D6 Mercer
D12 Campbell
D15 Mississippi State
D21-22 Trn. of Champ.
J2 Troy State
J5 at Fla. Atlantic
J10 at Cent. Florida
J12 Jacksonville
J17 at Jacksonville St.
J19 at Samford
J23 at Campbell
J26 Jacksonville St.
J28 Samford
F2 at Jacksonville
F4 at Stetson
F7 Central Florida
F9 Florida Atlantic
F14 at Mercer
F16 at Troy State
F21 Belmont

Georgia State

N17 at Texas
N19 New Orleans
N24 Belmont
N29 at Central Florida
D1 Stetson
D4 Florida Tech
D8 Savannah State
D17 at Wichita State
D20-22 San Juan S.O.
D29 Savannah State
J2 at Fla. Atlantic
J5 Jacksonville St.
J7 at Samford

Jacksonville

N17 at Texas
N19 New Orleans
N24 Belmont
N29 at Central Florida
D1 Stetson
D4 Florida Tech
D8 Savannah State
D17 at Wichita State
D20-22 San Juan S.O.
D29 Savannah State
J2 at Fla. Atlantic
J5 Jacksonville St.
J7 at Samford

J10 at Campbell
J12 at Georgia State
J17 Mercer
J19 Troy State
J22 at Stetson
J26 at Mercer
J28 at Troy State
F2 Georgia State
F4 Campbell
F7 at Samford
F9 at Jacksonville St.
F16 at Belmont
F21 Florida Atlantic
F23 Central Florida

Jacksonville St.

N18 Auburn
N21 at Birmingham So.
N29 at Troy State
D1 at Mercer
D14 at Alabama
D17 Central Florida
D19 Florida Atlantic
J2 at Samford
J5 at Jacksonville
J7 at Stetson
J10 Belmont
J17 Georgia State
J19 Campbell
J22 Samford
J24 at Savannah St.
J25 at Georgia St.
J28 at Campbell
F2 Savannah State
F4 at Belmont
F7 Stetson
F9 Jacksonville
F11 at Morris Brown
F14 at Fla. Atlantic
F16 at Central Fla.

F18 Morris Brown
F21 Mercer
F23 Troy State

Mercer

N16 Howard*
N17 at Minnesota
N23-25 Big Island Inv.
N29 Samford
D1 Jacksonville St.
D6 at Georgia State
D8 at Ga. Southern
D20 Fort Valley State
D28 at Iowa
D30 at South Carolina
J2 at Campbell
J7 at Belmont
J10 Florida Atlantic
J12 Central Florida
J17 at Jacksonville
J19 at Stetson
J23 at Troy State
J26 Jacksonville
J28 Stetson
F2 at Central Florida
F4 at Fla. Atlantic
F7 Belmont
F11 Troy State
F14 Georgia State
F16 Campbell
F21 at Jacksonville St.
F23 at Samford
*at Atlanta

Samford

N13-21 Guardians Cla.
N17 La.-Monroe
N26 at Georgia
N29 at Mercer
D1 at Troy State

D6 North Georgia
D8 at Illinois State
D17 Florida Atlantic
D19 Central Florida
D21 Morehead State
D28-29 Hoosier Class.
J2 Jacksonville St.
J5 at Stetson
J7 at Jacksonville
J12 at Belmont
J17 Campbell
J19 Georgia State
J22 at Jacksonville St.
J26 at Campbell
J28 at Georgia State
F2 Belmont
F7 Jacksonville
F9 Stetson
F14 Central Florida
F16 at Fla. Atlantic
F21 Troy State
F23 Mercer

Stetson

N17 Webber
N19 at Col. of Char.
N24 at Birm. Southern
N29 at Fla. Atlantic
D1 at Jacksonville
D6 Western Carolina
D16 Belmont
D22 at Texas Tech
D28 at Florida
J2 at Cent. Florida
J5 Samford
J7 Jacksonville St.
J10 at Georgia State
J12 at Campbell
J17 Troy State

Troy State

N16 at Kansas State
N23 at Marshall
N25 at Maine
N29 Jacksonville St.
D1 Samford
D15 Nicholls State
D19 at Campbell
D29-30 Bobcat Classic
J2 at Georgia State
J5 at Belmont
J10 Central Florida
J12 Florida Atlantic
J17 at Stetson
J19 at Jacksonville
J23 Mercer
J26 Stetson
J28 Jacksonville
F2 at Fla. Atlantic
F4 at Cent. Florida
F9 Belmont
F11 at Mercer
F14 Campbell
F16 Georgia State
F21 at Samford
F23 at Jacksonville St.

MID-CONTINENT

1. Valparaiso

National Rank: 99

Coach: Homer Drew (210-177, 13 years; 479-299 overall, 25 years; 2-5 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Lubos Barton, F, 6-8/Sr. (13.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 36.9 3%, 82.9 FT%, 1.1 spg); Joaquim Gomes, F, 6-8/So. (6.5 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 49.6 FG%); Raitis Grafts, C, 6-11/Jr. (13.8 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 55.5 FG%, 2.1 bpg); Milo Stovall, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 43.9 3%, 1.1 spg).

Outlook: The Crusaders will dominate the boards, but they need guards Mike Nelke and Jared Nuness to take up the slack for departing floor leader Dwayne Toatley. Guard Greg Tonagel, who has been sidelined most of the last two seasons, can contribute. Ankle injuries hampered Nuness, but he should bounce

back. Quickness won't be a strength of the team, although junior college newcomers Antonio Falu and Stalin Ortiz add speed. Grafts could make a run for league MVP honors if he becomes more offensive-minded. Gomes is coming off late-season knee surgery. Six players who averaged double-figure minutes should put VU back in the NCAA loop.

Last league title: 2001 (tied).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Valparaiso, Ind. **Home court:** Athletics-Rec. Center (4,500). **Website:** www.valpo.edu/athletics

2. Oakland

National Rank: 152

Coach: Greg Kampe (289-195, 17 years).

Key players: Brad Buddenborg, G, 6-5/Sr. (15.1 ppg,

4.6 rpg, 43.2 3%, 1.2 spg); Dan Champagne, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 65 FG%); Mike Helms, G, 6-0/So. (11.3 ppg, 41.4 3%); Jason Rozycki, G, 6-4/Sr. (18.3 ppg, 36.7 3%, 86.8 FT%).

Outlook: The perimeter-oriented Golden Grizzlies return everyone, including Champagne. He was granted a sixth year of eligibility after missing two seasons with a dislocated left hip (1996-97) and a broken hand (1999-2000). Now eligible for the conference tournament, the Grizzlies will find it easier to get motivated for late-season games. Last season ended with a collapse after Rozycki, the league's top scorer, suffered a season-ending injury. Five potential double-figures scorers, including 3-point marksman Buddenborg and guard Mychal Covington, will make the team difficult to defend.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Rochester, Mich. **Home court:** Student Athletic Center (3,000). **Website:** www.ougrizzlies.com

3. Missouri-Kansas City

National Rank: 215

Coach: Rich Zvosec (first year; 103-146 overall, 9 years).

Key players: Tom Curtis, F, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Michael Jackson, F, 6-7/Sr. (15.4 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 51 FG%, 1.4 spg, 1.7 bpg); Will Palmer, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 84.8 FT%); Matt Suther, G, 6-4/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 36.8 3%, 84.8 FT%); Michael Watson, G, 6-0/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 37.3 3%, 1.2 spg).

Outlook: The Kangaroos must cope with their second coaching change in as many years: Zvosec moved up when Dean Demopolous departed to become a Seattle SuperSonics assistant. Zvosec retains four starters and Palmer, UMKC's leading rebounder until appendicitis benched him the last six games. The top eight returnees include a bevy of great ballhandlers, but the guard-oriented Roos might have to rebound by committee. Zvosec hopes 6-9 JC recruit Tom Curtis will add inside muscle.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Kansas City. **Home court:** Municipal Auditorium (9,827). **Website:** www.umkc.edu/athletics

4. Oral Roberts

National Rank: 238

Coach: Scott Sutton (23-36, 2 years).

Key players: Josh Atkinson, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 42.4 3%); Markius Barnes, G, 6-3/Sr. (16 ppg, 3.2 apg); Matt Gastel, C, 6-11/Sr. (7.2 ppg, 55.5 FG%); Luke Spencer-Gardner, G, 6-1/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 41.9 3%, 4 apg).

Outlook: Look for a revival at ORU. Four returning starters headed by talented Barnes, who has the ability to take over a game, bodes well for the Golden Eagles, who are looking for their first NCAA appearance since 1984. Sutton beefed up a suspect inside game by signing Reggie Borges, Joe Cummings, Richie Myers and transfer Kendrick Moore, all whom range from 6-6 to 6-8. The Eagles should maintain their sharpshooting skills; last year they led the league in 3-point percentage (40.2).

Last league title: 1984 (Midwestern Collegiate).

Last NCAA appearance: 1984.

Site: Tulsa, Okla. **Home court:** Mabee Center (10,575). **Website:** www.oru.edu

5. IUPUI

National Rank: 248

Coach: Ron Hunter (101-95, 7 years).

Key players: Matt Crenshaw, G, 6-2/Sr.; Josh

Fitzwater, F, 6-8/Sr. (7.8 ppg, 4 rpg); Charles Price, F, 6-8/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 7 rpg, 48.7 FG%, 1.3 spg, 2.1 bpg); Lance Williams, G, 5-11/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 40 3%).

Outlook: The Jaguars will look to Price to take up the slack for Don Carlisle, who led the league in rebounding and blocked shots and was the conference's leading scorer. Price and Fitzwater should be a strong board tandem. With three returning starters, IUPUI might be the league's most improved team if its perimeter play improves. Williams hopes to build on a strong finish; he averaged 16.8 points in IUPUI's last four regular-season games.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Indianapolis. **Home court:** IUPUI Gymnasium (2,000). **Website:** www.iupui.edu/~jagsport

6. Southern Utah

National Rank: 256

Coach: Bill Evans (138-123, 9 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Dan Beus, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.9 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 55.3 FG%, 35.7 3%, 1.6 spg); Jay Collins, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Stan Johnson, G, 6-2/Jr. (47.8 FG%, 42.1 3%); Chris Wallin, C, 6-11/Jr. (4.3 ppg).

Outlook: The Thunderbirds will be grounded by the loss of 1-2 punch Fred House and Jeff Monaco, who combined for 34.7 points a game and ranked 1-2 in the conference in steals. Beus is the league's leading returning rebounder and is the team's only proven scorer in what must be considered a rebuilding year. Evans, searching for a quick fix, signed several junior college players, including Collins, an All-American 6-3 point guard from Cochise College.

Last league title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Cedar City, Utah. **Home court:** Centrum (5,300). **Website:** www.suu.edu/athletics

7. Western Illinois

National Rank: 274

Coach: Jim Kerwin (116-137, 9 years).

Key players: Cory Fosdyck, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 38.5 3%, 75.0 FT%); Karl Petersen, F, 6-9/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 5.1 rpg); Matt Robins, G, 6-0/Jr. (6.3 ppg, 37.7 3%); J.D. Summers, F, 6-3/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 42.5 3%).

Outlook: Coming off their worst season since 1967-68, the Leathernecks start what they hope to be a better season with nine holdovers and the addition of Luis Rivas, a transfer from Arkansas State. Fosdyck is the only proven scorer on a team that was 0-12 in non-conference games. Incoming junior college player Lorenzo Lawrence should help on both ends of the court.

Last league title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

John Mutka

The Post-Tribune, Northwest Indiana

Preseason All-Conference team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jason Rozycki, Oakland	6-4	190	Sr.
C	Raitis Grafts, Valparaiso	6-11	225	Jr.
F	Michael Jackson, UMKC	6-7	215	Sr.
F	Lubos Barton, Valparaiso	6-8	230	Sr.
F	Charles Price, IUPUI	6-8	210	Sr.

Player of the Year

Raitis Grafts, Valparaiso

Newcomer of the Year

Luis Rivas, F, Western Illinois

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Jason Rozycki, Oakland

Best rebounder: Dan Beus, Southern Utah

Best playmaker: Mychal Covington, Oakland

Best defender: Charles Price, IUPUI

Best leaper: Michael Jackson, UMKC

Most versatile: Lubos Barton, Valparaiso

Most flamboyant: Markius Barnes, Oral Roberts

Best NBA prospect: Raitis Grafts, Valparaiso

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Southern Utah*	13	3	25	6
Valparaiso	13	3	24	8
Youngstown State%	11	5	19	11
UMKC	9	7	14	16
Oakland	8	8	12	16
IUPUI	6	10	11	18
Oral Roberts	5	11	10	19
Western Illinois	5	11	5	23
Chicago State	2	14	5	23

*Lost to Boston College, 68-65, in NCAA East first round. %Now member of Horizon League.

Site: Macomb, Ill. **Home court:** Western Hall (5,137). **Website:** www.wiu.edu/athletics/

8. Chicago State

National Rank: 312

Coach: Bo Ellis (18-64, 3 years).

Key players: Clark Bone, F, 6-8/Jr. (4.8 ppg, 50.5 FG%); Rafael Morris, F, 6-6/Sr.; Randy Nelson, F, 6-9/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 51.9 FG%); Terrence West, G, 6-0/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 35.6 3%, 76.5 FT%).

Outlook: The Cougars lost their top scorers and rebounders in Tony Jones and Darrell Johns. Turnovers and perimeter shooting were the team's two biggest deficiencies last season.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Chicago. **Home court:** Jacoby D. Dickens Center (2,500). **Website:** www.csu.edu/athletics/

Schedules

Chicago State

N18 at Marquette
N21 Buffalo
N24 at Northwestern
N27 at Wisc.-G. Bay
D1 Youngstown St.
D4 at Wisc.-Milw.
D13 at Central Florida
D18 at DePaul
D20 Lakeland
D22 at Loyola
D29 Wichita State
J3 at Oakland
J5 at IUPUI
J8 at IUPUI-Ft. W'ye

J10 Western Illinois
J12 Valparaiso
J19 at Southern Utah
J24 at UMKC
J26 at Oral Roberts
J31 IUPUI
F2 Oakland
F7 at Valparaiso
F9 at W. Illinois
F16 Southern Utah
F19 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
F21 Oral Roberts
F23 UMKC

N24 Olivet Nazarene
N28 Indiana Tech
D1 at Indiana State
D9 at Ohio State
D15 Ball State
D18 Morehead State
D21 Sun Classic
D29 at Georgia Tech
J3 Southern Utah
J5 Chicago State
J10 at Oral Roberts
J12 at UMKC
J15 at W. Michigan
J19 at Oakland
J24 Valparaiso

J26 Western Illinois
J31 at Chicago State
F2 at Southern Utah
F7 UMKC
F9 Oral Roberts
F12 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
F16 Oakland
F21 at W. Illinois
F23 at Valparaiso

UMKC

N17 at Wisc.-G. Bay
N24 Md.-E. Shore
N27 SW Missouri St.
D1 Northern Iowa
D5 at Robert Morris

D8 at Kansas
D15 Wis.-Green Bay
D19 Oklahoma State
D22 Youngstown St.
D28 Koch Islander In.
J5 Oral Roberts
J10 Oakland
J12 IUPUI
J14 Texas A&M-C.C.
J17 at W. Illinois
J19 at Valparaiso
J24 Chicago State
J26 Southern Utah
D2 at Oral Roberts
F7 at IUPUI

F9 at Oakland
F14 Valparaiso
F16 Western Illinois
F21 at Southern Utah
F23 at Chicago State
F26 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne

Oakland

N16 at Michigan
N20 St. Mary's
N23-25 RMC Shootout
N30-D1 Boilermaker Inv.
D6 Detroit
D8 at Air Force
D11 at Wright State
D15 at Ohio

D19 at Michigan St.
D27 Toledo
D29 W. Michigan
J3 Chicago State
J5 Southern Utah
J10 at Oral Roberts
J12 at UMKC
J19 IUPUI
J24 Western Illinois
J26 Valparaiso
J28 at IUPUI-Ft. W'ye
J31 at Southern Utah
F2 at Chicago State
F7 Oral Roberts
F9 UMKC

F16 at IUPUI
F21 at Valparaiso
F23 at W. Illinois

Oral Roberts

N16 Cameron
N18 at Arkansas
N23 Drake
N25 at Colgate
N27 at Binghamton
D1 Tulsa
D5 Tennessee State
D8 at Nebraska
D14 at SMU
D17 Texas-Arlington
D20-22 San Juan SO

D29 Stephen F. Austin	F16 Valparaiso	D18 at Utah	F7 at W. Illinois	D5 Rhode Island	J26 at Oakland	N27 Drake	J12 at Southern Utah
J2 at Tex.-Arlington	F21 at Chicago State	D22 at Weber State	F9 at Valparaiso	D11 TBA	F2 Western Illinois	D1 at SE Missouri St	J17 UMKC
J5 at UMKC	F23 at Southern Utah	D29 at Brigham Young	F16 at Chicago State	D15 TBA	F7 Chicago State	D5 at Nebraska	J19 Oral Roberts
J10 IUPUI	Southern Utah	J3 at IUPUI	F21 UMKC	D20-22 Pearl Harbor Cl.	F9 Southern Utah	D8 Eastern Illinois	J24 at Oakland
J12 Oakland	N16 Fort Lewis	J5 at Oakland	F23 Oral Roberts	D28-30 Fiesta Bowl Cl.	F14 at UMKC	D16 at Illinois	J26 at IUPUI
J17 at Valparaiso	N20 at Stanford	J10 Valparaiso	Valparaiso	J2 at Kansas	F16 at Oral Roberts	D19 Eastern Kentucky	F2 at Valparaiso
J19 at W. Illinois	N24 at Idaho State	J12 Western Illinois	N16 Purdue	J5 at W. Illinois	F21 at Oakland	D23 Hampton	F7 Southern Utah
J24 Southern Utah	N30 at Oregon State	J19 Chicago State	N19 at Belmont	J10 at Southern Utah	F23 IUPUI	D30 Youngstown St.	F9 Chicago State
J26 Chicago State	D3 at CS Sacramento	J24 at Oral Roberts	N21 at Indiana State	J12 at Chicago State	Western Illinois	J2 SE Missouri St.	F14 at Oral Roberts
F2 UMKC	D8 UC Riverside	J26 at UMKC	N24 Wis.-Milwaukee	J17 Oral Roberts	N18 Cardinal Stritch	J5 Valparaiso	F16 at UMKC
F7 at Oakland	D10 Idaho State	J31 Oakland	N27 at N. Illinois	J19 UMKC	N20 at E. Kentucky	J7 St. Ambrose	F21 IUPUI
F9 at IUPUI	D15 at Boise State	F2 IUPUI	N29 Youngstown St.	J24 at IUPUI	N24 Bradley	J10 at Chicago State	F23 Oakland

BIG SKY

1. Northern Arizona

National Rank: 121

Coach: Mike Adras (35-25, 2 years, 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Matt Gebhardt, G, 6-4/Sr. (7.2 ppg, 46.9 FG%, 78.6 FT%); Casey Grundman, F, 6-9/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 53 FG%); Adam Lopez, G, 6-0/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 37.7 3 FG%, 88.1 FT%, 4.4 apg); Ryan McDade, F, 6-7/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 54 FG%); **Outlook:** The Lumberjacks are one of five teams that have a legitimate shot at winning the Big Sky. Last season, they were a middle-of-the-pack team with solid talent on the perimeter and under the basket. Talent got them into the semifinals of the conference tournament, but a lack of experience kept them from advancing. Now, NAU is poised to strike. Lopez is a terrific playmaker who plays pesky defense. He'll join Gebhardt in the backcourt. Up front, the team has McDade and Grundman, two of the league's best rebounders.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Flagstaff, Ariz. **Home court:** Walkup Skydome (7,000) **Website:** www.nauathletics.com

2. Montana State

National Rank: 142

Coach: Mick Durham (172-145, 11 years, 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Justin Brown, G, 6-4/Sr. (11.8 ppg, 45 FG%, 46.2 3%, 84.1 FT%); James Clark, G, 5-11/Sr. (5.3 ppg, 36.2 3%); Tom Duffy, C, 6-11/Jr. (6.6 ppg, 52.7 FG%, 46.2 3%, 1.5 bpg); Jason Erickson, G, 6-3/So (6 ppg, 79.6 FG%, 39.3 3%); Aaron Rich, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.7 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 57.7 FG%, 41.5 3%, 1.2 spg).

Outlook: The Bobcats were bounced in the first round of the league tournament last season. But four starters and four more regulars return, making this one of the conference's most experienced teams. Damir Latovic, a 6-8 JC transfer from Pensacola, Fla., likely will provide an inside presence. If opponents pack the middle, they'll have to deal with Brown and Rich, two of the league's best pure shooters. Brown had offseason foot surgery, but if he's slow to come back, the Bobcats have another excellent shooter in Pete Conway.

Last league title: 1996.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Bozeman, Mont. **Home court:** Worthington Arena (7,898). **Website:** www.msobobcats.com

3. Weber State

National Rank: 174

Coach: Joe Cravens (33-24, 2 years; 88-76 overall, 6 years).

Key players: Stephan Bachmann, C, 6-10/Jr. (10.3 ppg); Jermaine Boyette, G, 6-2/Jr. (19.1 ppg, 50 FG%, 79.9 FT%, 4.2 apg, 2.2 spg); Stevie Morrison, G, 6-0/Jr. (8.4 ppg, 86.5 FT%, 38 3%); Chris Woods, F, 6-4/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg).

Outlook: The Wildcats might have the league's best talent, and they do have the best player in Boyette. Still, they're among the youngest teams. The starting lineup likely will include three juniors, a sophomore and a senior. Boyette, Morrison and John Hamilton will provide an outside threat. Patrick Danley and Bachmann will take care of the inside game. Danley and Boyette are the team's best defensive players, but last year Weber State lacked a shot-blocking presence. The Wildcats hope 6-10 JC transfer Talmage Eyre will help in the middle.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Ogden, Utah. **Home court:** Dee Events Center (12,000). **Website:** www.weber.edu/athletics

4. Montana

National Rank: 191

Coach: Don Holst (41-41, 3 years).

Key players: Shane Christensen, G, 6-1/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 86.0 FT%, 4.6 apg); Travis Greenwalt, F, 6-8/Sr. (12.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 49.2 FG%, 76.3 FT%); Ryan Slider, F, 6-5/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 50 FG%, 40 3%); Dan Trammel, F, 6-6/Sr. (12.4 ppg, 7.8 ppg, 56.6 FG%, 1.9 spg, 1.1 bpg); .

Outlook: Montana is incredibly deep at forward, with Trammel, Greenwalt, Slider and two JC newcomers. Trammel arguably is the most versatile player in the conference; he's among the best shooters, scorers, defenders and rebounders. In Christensen, the Grizzlies have a veteran point guard who has more fundamentals than flash. On the down side, Montana needs a reliable big man and could use a little more depth at guard. On defense, the Grizzlies use a matchup zone that forces foes to hit outside shots. Last season, they led the Big Sky in field-goal percentage defense.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Missoula, Mont. **Home court:** Adams Center (7,500) **Website:** www.montanagrizzlies.com

5. Eastern Washington

National Rank: 213

Coach: Ray Giacoletti (17-11, 1 year, 65-44 overall, 4 years).

Jim Burton

Ogden (Utah) Standard-Examiner

Preseason All-Conference team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jermaine Boyette, Weber State	6-2	190	Jr.
G	Justin Brown, Montana State	6-4	175	Sr.
F	Dan Trammel, Montana	6-6	225	Sr.
F	Anthony Lackey, Portland State	6-5	225	Sr.
F/C	Casey Grundman, N. Arizona	6-9	220	Sr.

Player of the Year

Jermaine Boyette, Weber State

Newcomer of the Year

Jimmy White, F, Cal State Sacramento

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Aaron Rich, Montana State

Best rebounder: Ryan McDade, Northern Arizona

Best playmaker: Shane Christensen, Montana

Best defender: Adam Lopez, Northern Arizona

Best dunker: Dan Trammel, Montana

Most versatile: Anthony Lackey, Portland State

Most flamboyant: Kenny Plummer, Montana State

Best NBA prospect: Jermaine Boyette, Weber State

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Cal State Northridge*	13	3	22	10
Eastern Washington	11	5	17	11
Idaho State	10	6	14	14
Weber State	8	8	15	13
Montana State	8	8	16	14
Northern Arizona	8	8	15	14
Montana	6	10	11	16
Portland State	6	10	9	18
Cal State Sacramento	2	14	5	22

*Lost to Kansas, 99-75, in NCAA Midwest first round.

%Now member of Big West.

Key players: Jason Humbert, C, 6-9/Sr. (8 ppg, 47.9 FG%); Jason Lewis, G, 6-3/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 80.9 FT%, 4.3 apg, 1.1 spg); Marco Quinto, G, 6-2/So. (4.9 ppg, 56.1 FG%, 50 3%, 81 FT%); Alvin Snow, G, 6-2/So. (7.4 ppg, 56 FG%, 1.5 spg).

Outlook: The Eagles were a pleasant surprise last year, finishing second in the standings and making the conference tournament final. Seniors Aaron Olson, Chris White and Jamal Jones led the way, but they're gone. Returning point guard Lewis is among the conference's most reliable players and leaders. Lewis and Snow should provide an outside threat. Humbert and redshirt freshman Jeremy McCulloch will offer an inside presence. The Eagles were fifth in the league in scoring last season but No. 1 in defense, allowing fewer than 70 points a game. Defense again will be a priority, which means the Eagles will remain competitive.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Cheney, Wash. **Home court:** Reese Court (6,000). **Website:** www.ewu.edu/athletics

(Big Sky continued)

6. Idaho State**National Rank: 236****Coach:** Doug Oliver (28-53, 3 years).**Key players:** Danny Boticki, G, 6-3/Jr. (79.2 FT%); Rashad Kirkland, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 48 FG%); J.T. Nelson, C, 6-10/Sr. (61.2 FG%); Jesse Smith, F/C, 6-9/Fr. (RS); D'Marr Suggs, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.8 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 39.1 3%, 1.2 spg).**Outlook:** The Bengals were picked to finish eighth last year in preseason polls, but a late-season push helped them finish third. Three key seniors from that team are gone, but a promising group of recruits will help returners Suggs, Kirkland and Nelson. Suggs and Kirkland are capable scorers. Nelson clogs the middle on defense. The Bengals also will count on Smith to be a key inside player.**Last league title:** 1992.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1990.**Site:** Pocatello, Idaho. **Home court:** Holt Arena (8,000). **Website:** www/isu.edu/athletic**Schedules****E. Washington**

N15-16 BCA Classic
N19 Northwest
N24 at Minnesota
N29 Boise State
D1 St. Martin's
D4 at Gonzaga
D6 at Idaho
D9 Cal Poly
D15 at Portland
D21 at St. Mary's
D23 at San Diego St.
D28-29 Hoosier Cl.
J11 Montana
J12 Montana State
J19 Portland State
J25 at Weber State
J26 at Idaho State
F1 Northern Arizona
F2 CS Sacramento
F8 at Montana St.
F9 at Montana
F16 at Portland State
F22 Idaho State
F23 Weber State
M1 at CS Sacramento
M2 at No. Arizona

Idaho State

N17 at Loyola Mt.
N21 at Portland
N24 Southern Utah
N28 at Utah State
D1 Montana Tech
D7-8 Pizza Hut Classic
D10 at Southern Utah
D15 Western Montana
D21 at Utah
D28-29 Gossner Cl.
J2 Portland
J11 CS Sacramento
J12 Northern Arizona
J18 at Montana St.
J19 at Montana
J25 Portland State
J26 E. Washington
F2 Weber State
F8 at No. Arizona
F9 at CS Sacramento
F15 Montana
F16 Montana State
F22 at E. Washington
F23 at Portland State
M3 at Weber State

Montana

N16 Evergreen State
N18 at Gonzaga
N20 at Northern Iowa
N23 Concordia (Calif.)
N28 Washington St.
D2 Pacific
D5 Nevada
D8 at Idaho
D10 at Colorado
D20 Pearl Harbor Cl.
D30 Loyola Mt.
J5 at Weber State
J11 at E. Washington
J12 at Portland State
J18 Weber State
J19 Idaho State
J25 at No. Arizona
J26 at CS Sacramento
J31 at Montana State
F8 Portland State
F9 E. Washington
F15 at Idaho State
F22 CS Sacramento
F23 Northern Arizona
F2 Montana State

Montana State

N17 Utah State
N26 Jamestown
N30-D1 Fresno St. Tnr.
D4 at Utah State
D8 MSU-Northern
D13 at Arizona State
D15 Wyoming-Casper
D22 IUPUI-Ft. Wayne
D29-30 Bobcat Classic
J3 at Weber State
J5 at Portland
J11 at Portland State
J12 at E. Washington
J18 Idaho State
J19 Weber State
J25 at CS Sacramento
J26 at No. Arizona
J31 Montana
F8 E. Washington
F9 Portland State
F16 at Idaho State
F22 No. Arizona
F23 CS Sacramento
M2 at Montana

Northern Arizona

N16 Cal Poly
N18 at Pittsburgh
N21 at Colgate
N24 at Northeastern
N30 N.M. Highlands
D6 at Lipscomb
D8 at Tenn.-Martin
D15 at Oregon
D18 at Boise State
D21 Montana Tech
D29 at CS Fullerton
J2 Air Force
J5 at New Mexico
J11 at Weber State
J12 at Idaho State
J19 at CS Sacramento
J25 Montana
F1 at E. Washington
F2 at Portland State
F8 Idaho State
F9 Weber State
F16 CS Sacramento
F22 at Montana St.
F23 Montana
M1 Portland State
M2 E. Washington

Portland State

N16 at Boise State
N20 at Arizona State
N24 San Diego
N27 at Cal Poly
D1 at Gonzaga
D8 Portland
D12 Oregon State
D15 at Nevada
D18-19 Stanford Invit.
D29 at Wyoming
J2 Concordia
J5 Loyola Mt.
J11 Montana State
J12 Montana
J19 at E. Washington
J25 at Idaho State
J26 at Weber State
F1 CS Sacramento
F2 Northern Arizona
F8 at Montana
F9 at Montana St.
F16 E. Washington
F22 Weber State
F23 Idaho State
M1 at No. Arizona
M2 at CS Sacramento

CS Sacramento

N17 Menlo
N21 at San Jose St.
N27 at St. Mary's
D3 Southern Utah
D6 CS Fullerton
D8 at Loyola Mt.
D15 at CS Fullerton
D17 Lipscomb
D27 at UC Riverside
D30 Idaho
J3 Texas A&M-CC
J7 Dominican
J11 at Idaho State
J12 at Weber State
J16 at Cal Poly
J19 Northern Arizona
J25 Montana State
J26 Montana
F1 at Portland State
F2 Northern Arizona
F8 at Montana
F9 at Montana St.
F16 E. Washington
F22 Weber State
F23 at Montana St.
M1 E. Washington
M2 Portland State

Weber State

N16 at Illinois State
N19 Concordia
N23-25 Big Island Inv.
N30 W. Montana
D5 at BYU
D8 Utah State
D15 Utah
D18 Savannah State
D22 Southern Utah
D29-30 Dr Pepper Cl.
J3 Montana State
J5 Montana
J11 Northern Arizona
J12 CS Sacramento
J18 at Montana
J19 at Montana St.
J25 E. Washington
J26 Portland State
F2 Idaho State
F8 at CS Sacramento
F9 at No. Arizona
F22 at Portland State
F23 at E. Washington
M2 Idaho State

MID-EASTERN

1. South Carolina State**National Rank: 122****Coach:** Cy Alexander (242-175, 14 years, 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).**Key players:** Greg Gray, G/F, 6-7/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg); Dexter Hall, F, 6-8/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 50.3 FG%); Demarco Heath, G, 6-2/Fr.; LaRon Mapp, G, 6-3/Sr. (10 ppg, 45.4 FG%, 76.5 FT%).**Outlook:** The Bulldogs have all the pieces—size, rebounding, defense, good shooting—to bag both a championship and NCAA Tournament bid. Gray and Mapp set the tone in the backcourt, and they'll get help from prized freshman Heath. The low-post game should be monstrous behind 6-9 junior college transfer Hassan Diabi and 6-7 Tim Gordon.**Last league title:** 2001 (tie).**Last NCAA appearance:** 2000.**Site:** Orangeburg, S.C. **Home court:** Smith-Hammond Memorial Center (3,200).**Website:** www.scsusports.com**STANDINGS**

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Hampton*	14	4	24	6
South Carolina St.	14	4	19	13
Delaware State	11	7	13	15
Norfolk State	11	7	12	17
Coppin State	11	8	13	15
Md.-Eastern Shore	10	8	12	16
N.C. A&T State	8	10	13	17
Howard	8	10	10	18
Bethune-Cookman	5	13	10	19
Florida A&M	4	14	6	22
Morgan State	4	15	6	23

*Lost to Georgetown, 76-57, in NCAA West second round.

2. Norfolk State**National Rank: 195****Coach:** Wil Jones (24-33, 2 years).**8. Cal State Sacramento****National Rank: 318****Coach:** Jerome Jenkins (5-22, 1 year).**Key players:** Rene Jacques, G, 6-1/Sr. (7.2 ppg); Cedric Thompkins, F, 6-7/So. (4.1 ppg, 49.2 FG%), Jimmy White, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).**Outlook:** Last season, the Hornets finished last in the league in scoring offense, scoring defense, scoring margin, free-throw percentage, field-goal percentage and 3-point percentage. To make matters worse, the Hornets lost their four best players. Much will be left to Jacques, the team's only returning starter. Perhaps the biggest key to a possible turnaround will be the play of White, an exciting transfer who averaged 21.8 points in his last junior college season.**Last league title:** None.**Last NCAA appearance:** None.**Site:** Sacramento. **Home court:** Hornet Gym (1,400). **Website:** www.hornetsports.com

Craig T. Greenlee

News & Record (Greensboro, N.C.)

Preseason All-Conference team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Terrance Winston, Norfolk State	6-0	170	Sr.
G	Tommy Adams, Hampton	6-3	195	Sr.
F	Greg Gray, South Carolina State	6-7	200	Sr.
F	Bruce Jenkins, N.C. A&T	6-6	205	Sr.
C/F	Aki Thomas, Howard	6-8	230	Sr.

Player of the Year

Aki Thomas, Howard

Newcomer of the Year

Tyrone Green, G, North Carolina A&T

Honor Roll**Best shooter:** Ron Williamson, Howard**Best rebounder:** Bruce Jenkins, North Carolina A&T**Best playmaker:** Terrance Winston, Norfolk State**Best defender:** Andre Matthews, Delaware State**Best dunker:** Curtis King, Morgan State**Most versatile:** Greg Gray, South Carolina State**Most flamboyant:** Ali Abdullah, Howard**Best NBA prospect:** Greg Gray, South Carolina State**Key players:** Michael Boyd, F, 6-7/Jr. (5.8 ppg, 54.5 FG%); Jamal Mills, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (4.4 ppg); Derrick Smith, G, 6-4/So. (11 ppg, 48 FG%, 82.9 FT%); Terrance Winston, G, 6-0/Sr. (14.8 ppg, 1.3 spg, 35.3 3%, 75.2 FT%).

(Mid-Eastern continued)

6-4/Sr. (11.9 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 45.1 FG%).

Outlook: To improve its offensive balance, Coppin State added productive forwards in Western Kentucky transfer Jimmy Boykin and junior college transfer Drew Cagle. And with guard Alexy Ferreira joining the crew after sitting out last year, scoring shouldn't be a problem. Coppin is a sound defensive team, but its rebounding must improve.

Last league title: 1999.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1997.

Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Coppin Center (1,720). **Website:** www.coppin.edu/athletics

8. Florida A&M

National Rank: 275

Coach: Mike Gillespie (1st year).

Key players: Jason Miles, G, 6-3/So. (13.2 ppg); Sonny Tudeme, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.5 ppg); Demarcus Wilkins, G, 6-0/So. (13.6 ppg, 83.2 FT%).

Outlook: In Wilkins and Miles, the Rattlers have two of the MEAC's best young guards. They also have good height inside, but they lack muscle. As a result, Florida A&M must rely on relentless full-court pressure and jump shots to survive the season. Gillespie will turn this program around, but it won't happen this year.

Last league title: None.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1999.

Site: Tallahassee, Fla. **Home court:** Gaither Gym

(3,365). **Website:** www.famu.edu/athletics

9. Bethune-Cookman

National Rank: 278

Coach: Horace Broadnax (36-76, 4 years).

Key players: Moses Cage G, 5-10/Sr. (5.3 ppg, 1.8 spg, 77.2 FT%); Brian Cox, G, 6-1/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 76.8 FT%); Brent King F, 6-5/Sr.; Jerome Nicholson, C, 6-8/So. (5.1 ppg, 49.6 FG%).

Outlook: The Wildcats play decent defense, but offense is another matter. If Nicholson has a breakthrough season and talented transfers Mike Williams and Richard Toussaint live up to advance billing, Bethune-Cookman will be more than capable of altering the league's predicted order of finish.

Last league title: None.**Last NCAA appearance:** None.

Site: Daytona Beach, Fla. **Home court:** Moore Gym (3,000). **Website:** www.cookman.edu/athletics

10. Morgan State

National Rank: 304

Coach: Alfred "Butch" Beard (1st year, 41-66 overall, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Cedric Barrow, G, 6-0/So. (5 ppg); Curtis King F, 6-7/Sr. (15.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 51.2 FG%); Doug Sims, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.6 ppg, 56.2 FG%); Reggie Winkfield, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (6.6 ppg,

83.3 FT%).

Outlook: Beard, hired in June, didn't have much time for recruiting. But the crew he inherited from the departed Chris Fuller isn't too shabby. To succeed, the Bears must generate enough of an inside-outside game to keep opponents from focusing strictly on King.

Last league title: 1977.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1977.

Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Hill Field House (4,500). **Website:** www.morgan.edu

11. Maryland-Eastern Shore

National Rank: 311

Coach: Thomas Trotter (12-16, 1 year).

Key players: Kevin Darby, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.9 ppg, 37.9 3%); Andre Newson, G/F, 6-6/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg); Tim Smith, G, 6-3/Sr. (8.4 ppg); Thomas Trotter, G, 6-0/So. (14.2 ppg, 78 FT%).

Outlook: Trotter's long-distance shooting and Newson's all-around play will help keep the Hawks in contention. But to stay out of the basement, they need big outings nightly from front-liners Justin Bowen and Brandon Allen. If they get no help inside, it's sure to be a long, agonizing season.

Last league title: 1974.**Last NCAA appearance:** None.

Site: Princess Anne, Md. **Home court:** Hytche Athletic Center (5,500). **Website:** www.umes.edu

SOUTHLAND

1. Texas-San Antonio

National Rank: 128

Coach: Tim Carter (86-81, 6 years; 97-97 overall, 7 years).

Key players: Devin Brown, G, 6-5/Sr. (19.9 ppg, 7.6 rpg); Jon Havens, G, 6-2/Jr. (9.3 ppg, 4.1 apg); James Joseph, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg); Reggie Minniweather, F, 6-3/Sr. (9 ppg, 5.9 rpg); McEverett Powers, F, 6-8/Sr. (10 ppg, 6.8 rpg).

Outlook: The Roadrunners have the league's best winning percentage over the past four seasons (.557). Look for that trend to continue with Brown's return. He ranked third in the SLC in scoring last season. Powers, who adds rebounding, and Havens, the playmaker, also know how to score. With eight lettermen back, the Roadrunners are in the running for their third trip to the NCAA.

Last league title: 1992.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1999.

Site: San Antonio. **Home court:** Convocation Center (5,100). **Website:** www.goutsas.com

2. McNeese State

National Rank: 143

Coach: Tic Price (1st year; 93-54 overall, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Raynell Brewer, C, 7-1/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 2.6 bpg); Fred Gentry, F/C, 6-6/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 6.3 rpg); Adrian Johnson, F, 6-6/Jr.; Eldridge Lewis, G, 5-9/So.; Jaeson Maravich, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (RS); Ben Perkins, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.3 ppg).

Outlook: Despite losing All-SLC guard Demond

Mallet and Pierre Brown, who combined for more than 40 points per game, McNeese keeps rolling because of its depth. Defense and rebounding should be strengths with Gentry, Brewer and Perkins forming an imposing front line. Guard Jason Coleman hit 48.9 percent of his 3-pointers in league games.

Last league title: 2001.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1989.

Site: Lake Charles, La. **Home court:** Burton Coliseum (8,000). **Website:** www.mcneese.edu

3. Louisiana-Monroe

National Rank: 197

Coach: Mike Vining (350-236, 20 years; 0-7 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Nick Coln, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.3 ppg); Reggie Griffith, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Michael Hardaway, G, 5-11/Sr.; Kirby Lemons, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Brian Lubeck, G/F, 6-6/Sr. (13.7 ppg, 9 rpg); Wojciech Myrda, C, 7-2/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 51.4 FG%, 4.4 bpg); Kevin Paige, F, 6-7/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 5 rpg).

Outlook: All five starters return from a balanced team that should improve on last season's eighth-place finish. Lubeck won the SLC's rebounding title and led the team in scoring. Fourth-year starter Myrda is the SLC's all-time leading shot blocker with 363 and has the NCAA mark (492) in sight. Paige provides muscle, Coln has an uncanny stroke from the perimeter and Hardaway is steady at the point.

Last league title: 1997.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1996.

Site: Monroe, La. **Home court:** Fant-Ewing Coliseum (8,000). **Website:** www.ulmathletics.com

Paul Lettow, *The News-Star* in Monroe, La.

Preseason All-Conference team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Steven Barber, Texas-Arlington	5-10	160	Sr.
G	Devin Brown, Texas-San Antonio	6-5	205	Sr.
G	Michael Byars-Dawson, NW State	5-11	207	Sr.
F/G	Brian Lubeck, Louisiana-Monroe	6-6	220	Sr.
C	Wojciech Myrda, La.-Monroe	7-2	225	Sr.

Player of the Year

Devin Brown, Texas-San Antonio

Newcomer of the Year

Reggie Griffith, G/F, Louisiana-Monroe

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Jason Coleman, McNeese State
Best rebounder: Brian Lubeck, Louisiana-Monroe
Best playmaker: Eddy Barlow, Sam Houston State
Best defender: Wojciech Myrda, Louisiana-Monroe
Best dunker: Adrian Johnson, McNeese State
Most versatile: Devin Brown, Texas-San Antonio
Most flamboyant: Raynell Brewer, McNeese State
Best NBA prospect: Wojciech Myrda, Louisiana-Monroe

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
McNeese State+	17	3	22	9
Nicholls State	12	8	14	14
Texas-San Antonio	12	8	14	15
Northwestern State*	11	9	19	13
Sam Houston State	11	9	16	13
Texas-Arlington	11	9	13	15
Southwest Texas	10	10	13	15
Louisiana-Monroe	8	12	11	17
Lamar	7	13	9	18
Stephen F. Austin	6	14	9	17
Southeastern La.	5	15	8	21

*Lost to Illinois, 96-54, in NCAA Midwest first round.

+Lost to UTEP, 84-74, in NIT first round.

4. Texas-Arlington

National Rank: 220

Coach: Eddie McCarter (107-140, 9 years).

Key players: Steven Barber, G, 5-10/Sr. (16.4 ppg; Donny Beacham, F, 6-5/So. (5.9 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 1.8 spg); Mack Callier, F, 6-7/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 51.4 FG%); Mike Hicks, G, 6-4/Sr. (transfer/Butler); Derrick Obasohan, F, 6-7/So. (8.8 ppg, 36.4 3%).

Outlook: Second-team All-SLC guard Barber is the best of four returning starters. He was second on the team in scoring last year behind senior Jabari Johnson. Callier was the league's third-leading rebounder. Obasohan returns to build on his freshman-of-the-year season. UTA is counting on former Butler starter Hicks to have an impact.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Arlington, Texas. **Home court:** Texas Hall (4,200). **Website:** www.uta.edu/athletics

5. Northwestern State

National Rank: 226

Coach: Mike McConathy (36-26, 2 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Michael Byars-Dawson, G, 5-11/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 37.1 3%); Ryan Duplessis, G, 6-2/Sr. (7.2 ppg); D'or Fischer, C, 6-11/So. (5.1 ppg, 4 rpg, 2.2 bpg); Carl Jones, F, 6-9/Fr. (transfer/Western Oklahoma State); Chris Lynch, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.8 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Alann Polk, G, 6-3/Sr. (RS); Melvin Roberts, F, 6-7/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 39 3%, 77.8 FT%).

Outlook: After winning the SLC Tournament by knocking off regular-season champ McNeese State, the Demons made their first NCAA Tournament appearance last season. The team returns four of its top five scorers and shot-blocking specialist Fischer. SLC Tournament MVP Byars-Dawson could take over the ballhandling role. Polk was one of the team's leading scorers entering last season but was sidelined by knee surgery. Lynch, Roberts, Fischer and Jones will handle the work inside.

Last league title: None.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Natchitoches, La. **Home court:** Prather Coliseum (4,300). **Website:** www.nsudemons.com

6. Lamar

National Rank: 251

Coach: Mike Deane (24-34, 2 years; 314-191 overall, 17 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Jo Adunde, F, 6-8/Sr.; Lewis Arline, F, 6-6/Jr. (8.6 ppg, 8.9 rpg); Ron Austin, G, 6-3/Jr. (10 ppg); Tyler Hackstadt, G, 6-3/So.; Krunti Hester, F, 6-6/So. (transfer/Marquette); Terrell Petteway, F, 6-7/Jr.; Eddie Robinson, G, 6-3/Jr. (6.2 ppg).

Outlook: The Cardinals return four starters, and that should help them compete for an upper-division finish. Austin is the leading returning scorer; Robinson and Hackstadt will join him in the backcourt. Arline was second in the SLC in rebounding. Petteway might be a player on the rise inside.

Last league title: 1984.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Beaumont, Texas. **Home court:** Montagne Center (10,080). **Website:** www.athletics.lamar.edu

7. Sam Houston State

National Rank: 263

Coach: Bob Marlin (48-36, 3 years).

Key players: Eddy Barlow, G, 6-0/Jr. (7.9 ppg,

Schedules

Lamar

N20	at Rice
N24	Texas A&M
N27	Texas Southern
N30-D1	Spartan Clas.
D13	at Tex.-Pan Amer
D15	at Tex. A&M-C.C.
D20	at Tex.-S. Antonio
D22	at SW Texas St.
D29	NW (La.) State
J5	McNeese State
J7	Sam Houston St.
J10	at S.F. Austin
J12	at Tex.-Arlington
J17	Nicholls State
J19	SE Louisiana
J24	at NW (La.) State
J26	at La.-Monroe
J31	Texas-S.A.
F2	SW Texas State
F7	at Nicholls State
F9	at SE Louisiana
F14	S.F. Austin
F16	Texas-Arlington
F21	at McNeese St.
F26	La.-Monroe
M2	at Sam Hous. St.

La.-Monroe

N17	at Samford
N20	Tougaloo
N24	at TCU
D1	McNeese State
D3	at Mississippi
D13	at Sam Hous. St.
D17-22	Las Vegas Cl.
D28-29	State Farm Cl.
J5	Stephen F. Austin
J7	Texas-Arlington
J10	at SE Louisiana
J12	at Nicholls State
J17	Texas-S. Antonio
J19	SW Texas State
J24	Sam Hous. St.
J26	Lamar
J31	at NW (La.) State
F4	at McNeese St.
F7	at Texas-S.A.
F9	at SW Texas St.
F14	SE Louisiana
F16	Nicholls State
F21	at Tex.-Arlington
F23	at S.F. Austin
F27	at Lamar
M2	NW (La.) State

McNeese State

N17	at La.-Lafayette
N19	Loyola (La.)
N29	at Alabama
D1	at La.-Monroe
D3	Nicholls State
D8	at Jackson State
D15	at LSU
D19	at Texas
D22	SE Louisiana
D29	Texas-S.A.
J3	at Sam Hous. St.
J5	at Lamar
J10	at Tex.-S. Antonio
J12	at SW Texas St.
J17	at Nicholls State
J19	at Lamar
F8	at SW Texas
F10	at Tex.-S. Antonio
F14	Nicholls State
F16	SE Louisiana
F19	Centenary
F21	at S.F. Austin
F23	Texas-Arlington
F28	at McNeese St.
M2	at La.-Monroe

4.9 ppg, 37 3%); Donald Cole, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Eddy Fobbs, C, 6-11/So. (6.1 ppg, 4.9 rpg); Demetrick Sims, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.7 ppg).

Outlook: Marlin has established himself among the top coaches in the SLC. The Bearkats have the SLC's top point guard in Barlow, who led the league in assists. The team lost its top two scorers, so someone such as Sims must boost his offensive production.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Huntsville, Texas. **Home court:** Johnson Coliseum (6,100). **Website:** www.shsu.edu

8. Nicholls State

National Rank: 268

Coach: Rickey Broussard (148-158, 11 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

J7	at Centenary
J10	at Nicholls State
J12	at SE Louisiana
J17	Southwest Texas
J19	Texas-S.A.
J24	Lamar
J26	Sam Houston St.
J31	La.-Monroe*
F2	McNeese State
F8	at SW Texas
F10	at Tex.-S. Antonio
F14	Nicholls State
F16	SE Louisiana
F19	Centenary
F21	at S.F. Austin
F23	Texas-Arlington
F28	at McNeese St.
M2	at La.-Monroe

Sam Houston St.

N16-17	Hawaii Nike Cl.
N24	at Texas Tech
N30-D1	Coca-Cola Cl.
D13	La.-Monroe
D15	at Nebraska
D20	at SW Texas
D22	at Tex.-S. Antonio
D27	NW (La.) State
D29-30	Dr Pepper Cl.
J3	McNeese State
J7	at Lamar
J10	at Tex.-Arlington
J12	at S.F. Austin
J17	SE Louisiana
J19	Nicholls State
J24	at La.-Monroe
J26	at NW State
J31	Southwest Texas
F2	Texas-S.A.
F7	at SE Louisiana
F9	at Nicholls State
F14	Texas-Arlington
F16	Stephen F. Austin
F21	at McNeese St.

SE Louisiana

N16	at Louisiana
N24	at Memphis
N28	at S. Alabama
D5	at Texas A&M
D8	New Orleans
D17	Stephen F. Austin
D19	Texas-Arlington
D22	at McNeese St.
D28-29	Lobo Classic
J3	at Tex.-S. Antonio
J5	at SW Texas
J10	La.-Monroe
J12	Northwestern St.
J17	at Sam Houston
J19	at Lamar
J24	Nicholls State

J26	McNeese State
J31	at Tex.-Arlington
F2	at S.F. Austin
F7	Sam Houston
F9	Lamar
F14	at La.-Monroe
F16	at Northwest St.
F21	Southwest Texas
F23	Tex.-San Antonio
F28	at Nicholls State

SW Texas State

N17	Schreiner
N19	at Texas-P. Amer.
N25	at Texas A&M-C.C.
N28	at TCU
D1	at S.F. Austin
D4	at Arkansas
D8	at McNeese State
D10	at Houston
D26	Sam Houston
D22	Lamar
J3	Nicholls State
J5	SE Louisiana
J8	Texas-Pan Am
J12	McNeese State
J17	at NW State
J19	at La.-Monroe
J24	Stephen F. Austin
J26	Texas-Arlington
J31	at Sam Houston
F2	at Lamar
F8	NW State
F10	La.-Monroe
F16	at Tex.-S. Antonio
F21	at SE Louisiana
F23	at Nicholls State
F26	at Texas-Arlington
M2	Texas-San Antonio

Stephen F. Austin

N17	at Arizona State
N21	at Jackson State
N24	Texas Lutheran
N27	Rice
D1	Southwest Texas
D5	at Centenary
D8	Texas Southern
D17	at SE Louisiana
D19	at Nicholls State
D29	at Oral Roberts
J3	at Northwest St.
J5	at La.-Monroe
J10	Lamar
J12	Sam Houston
J17	at Tex.-Arlington
J24	at SW Texas
J26	at Tex.-S. Antonio
J31	Nicholls State
F2	SE Louisiana
F7	Texas-Arlington
F9	McNeese State
F14	at Lamar

F16	at Sam Houston
F21	Northwestern St.
F23	La.-Monroe
F26	Tex.-San Antonio
M2	at McNeese St.

Texas-Arlington

N17	New Mexico St.
N21	at Baylor
N28	at Wichita State
D3	at Texas Tech
D17	at Oral Roberts
D20	at SE Louisiana
D22	at Nicholls State
D29	Hardin Simmons
J2	Oral Roberts
J5	Northwestern St.
J7	at La.-Monroe
J10	Sam Houston
J12	Lamar
J17	Stephen F. Austin
J19	at McNeese St.
J24	at Tex.-S. Antonio
J26	at SW Texas St.
J31	SE Louisiana
F2	Nicholls State
F4	Tex.-S. Antonio
F7	at St. F. Austin
F11	McNeese State
F14	at Sam Houston
F16	at Lamar
F21	La.-Monroe
F23	at Northwest St.
F26	SW Texas State

Texas-S. Antonio

N16-17	Fla. Inter. Tour.
N20	Illinois State
N27	at Nebraska
D1	at Tex.-Arlington
D3	at S.F. Austin
D7-8	Pizza Hut Classic
D15	at TCU
D20	Lamar
D22	Sam Hous. State
D29	at McNeese St.
J3	SE Louisiana
J5	Nicholls State
J10	McNeese State
J17	at La.-Monroe
J19	at NW State
J24	Texas-Arlington
J26	Stephen F. Austin
J31	at Lamar
F2	at Sam Hous. St.
F8	La.-Monroe
F10	Northwestern St.
F16	SW Texas State
F21	at Nicholls State
F23	at SE Louisiana
M2	at SW Texas St.

Key players: Sean Hughley, G, 5-10/Jr. (6.4 ppg); Clifton Jones, F, 6-8/Jr.; Earnest Porter, G, 6-4/Jr. (8.3 ppg, 38.1 3%); Zach Ray, G, 6-4/Sr.; Randy Walton, F, 6-5/Jr.; Reggie Williams, F, 6-6/Sr.

Outlook: The Colonels lost 70 percent of their scoring. Now it's up to the backcourt tandem of Porter and Hughley to lead the way. Williams needs to pick up the rebounding void and provide inside muscle. Ray was beginning to emerge last year before an ankle injury cost him six games.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Thibodaux, La. **Home court:** Stophor Gym (3,800). **Website:** www.nicholls.edu/sports

9. Southwest Texas State

National Rank: 281

Coach: Dennis Nutt (13-15, 1 year).

(Southland continued)

Key players: Clay Click, G, 6-3/Sr. (12.1 ppg, 38.8 %); Dain Ervin, F, 6-5/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg); Byron Hobbs, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 6.8 rpg); David Sykes, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 6.6 rpg); C Melih Yavsaner, C, 6-11/Sr. (7 ppg, 5.3 rpg).

Outlook: Picked to finish last a year ago, SWT surprised, finishing only one win from a tie for fourth. With four starters back, Nutt hopes to surprise again. Sykes and Click were the leading scorers last year. Hobbs and Sykes were the best on the boards.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: San Marcos Texas. **Home court:** Strahan Coliseum (7,100). **Website:** www.swtbobcats.com

10. Stephen F. Austin

National Rank: 289

Coach: Danny Kaspar (9-17, 1 year; 228-69

overall, 10 years).

Key players: Jason Gast, G, 6-3/So. (transfer/Incarnate Word); Ben Hunt, G, 6-2 /Jr. (Australia); Skip Jackson, G, 5-11/Jr. (14.6 ppg, 37.9 %); Stevin Ozier, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS); Edwin Tatum, F, 6-4/Jr. (5.5 ppg); Ransom White, F, 6-7/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 1.4 spg).

Outlook: Last season, the Lumberjacks had six losses by three points or fewer and three one-point losses. Two starters, including Jackson, a third-team All-SLC selection, return. The top rebounder, White, also is back. Hunt is a key addition. He spent the past year touring with an Australian All-Star team. Ozier and Gast should get considerable playing time.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Nacogdoches, Texas. **Home court:** Johnson Coliseum (7,200). **Website:** www.sfajacks.com

3. Brown

National Rank: 194

Coach: Glen Miller (23-31, 2 years; 118-89 overall, 8 years).

Key Players: Shaun Etheridge, F, 6-7/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 48.2 FG%, 37.7 %; 1.4 spg); Earl Hunt, G, 6-4/Jr. (19.7 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 48.7 FG%, 41.0 %, 1.4 spg); Mike Martin, G, 6-5/So. (6.5 ppg, 81.1 FT%); Alaiava Nuualitiia, F, 6-7/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 57.6 FG%); Omari Ware, G, 6-2/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 1.1 spg);

Outlook: In two years, Miller has turned the Bears from the league's doormat to a contender. Brown finished last season 8-1 and went into the final weekend with a chance to win the league. Hunt, last year's Ivy scoring leader, returns and should be just as potent. Nuualitiia is a force inside at both ends of the court, and Etheridge is another potential double-digits scorer.

Last league title: 1986.

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.

Site: Providence, R.I. **Home court:** Pizzitola Center (2,800). **Website:** www.brownbears.com

4. Yale

National Rank: 230

Coach: James Jones (17-37, 2 years).

Key Players: Ime Archibong, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.1 ppg, 45.3 FG%, 35.2 %, 1.1 spg); Edwin Draughan, G, 6-5/Fr.; Chris Leanza, G, 6-1/Jr. (13.3 ppg, 40.5 %, 1.5 spg); T.J. McHugh, F, 6-8/Jr. (82.5 FT%); Paul Vitelli, F, 6-7/So. (5.7 ppg).

Outlook: Yale went into the final weekend of last season with a chance to win the title but was swept at home by Princeton and Penn. Jones hopes that big-game exposure will help this season. The team's strength is the backcourt, with Leanza and Archibong back and the addition of highly touted freshman Draughan. Yale also is gambling that freshman point guard Alex Gamboa will help. The Bulldogs will battle, but their inside game doesn't match up with the top teams.

Last league title: 1962.

Last NCAA appearance: 1962.

Site: New Haven, Conn. **Home court:** John J. Lee Amphitheater (3,100). **Website:** www.yale.edu/athletic

5. Columbia

National Rank: 247

Coach: Armond Hill (59-99, 6 years).

Key Players: Craig Austin, F, 6-6/Sr. (18.4 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 45.1 FG%, 41.1 %, 81.1 FT%, 1.4 spg); Joe Case, F, 6-8/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 5.0 rpg); Derrick Mayo,

11. Southeastern Louisiana

National Rank: 313

Coach: Billy Kennedy (18-38, 2 years; 42-72 overall, 4 years).

Key players: Donald Ceaser, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Dyron Clark, G, 5-9/Jr.; Derrick Franklin, F, 6-3/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 4.5 rpg); Lane Frey, G, 6-4/So.; Harold Juluke, F, 6-6/Sr.; Curtis Walker, F, 6-7/Sr.

Outlook: The Lions lost their two top scorers and don't have much returning offense. Ceaser is the top scorer back at 7.1 ppg. Frey didn't put up big numbers but averaged 13.5 points in the final two games. Beefy forwards Juluke and Walker must improve their rebounding numbers.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Hammond, La. **Home court:** University Center (7,500). **Website:** www.lionsports.net

Mark Eckel, *The Times* (Trenton, N.J.)

Preseason All-Conference team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Earl Hunt, Brown	6-5	200	Jr.
G	Chris Leanza, Yale	6-1	180	Jr.
F	Craig Austin, Columbia	6-6	210	Sr.
F	Ugonna Onyekwe, Penn	6-8	225	Jr.
F	Ray Robins, Princeton	6-7	195	Sr.

Player of the Year

Earl Hunt, Brown

Newcomer of the Year

Dominic Martin, C, Princeton

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Craig Austin, Columbia
Best rebounder: Alai Nuualitiia, Brown
Best playmaker: Omari Ware, Brown
Best defender: Andrew Gellert, Harvard
Best dunker: Ugonna Onyekwe, Penn
Most versatile: Earl Hunt, Brown
Most flamboyant: Ray Robins, Princeton
Best NBA prospect: Ugonna Onyekwe, Penn

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Princeton*	11	3	16	11
Brown	9	5	15	12
Pennsylvania	9	5	12	17
Harvard	7	7	14	12
Columbia	7	7	12	15
Yale	7	7	10	17
Dartmouth	3	11	8	19
Cornell	3	11	7	20

*Lost to No. Carolina, 70-48, in NCAA South first round.

G, 6-1/Sr.; Victor Munoz, G, 6-0/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 38.9 %, 78.7 FT%); Chris Wiedemann, C, 6-9/Jr. (8.0 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 52.2 FG%, 1.7 bpg).

Outlook: Hill must hope everything goes right for his team to challenge the Ivy powers. Columbia has a big-time player in Ivy Player of the Year Austin and a solid frontcourt with Case and Wiedemann. But Hill, a former Princeton star and NBA player, will need more from his backcourt to contend. Columbia might have improved, but so has the rest of the league.

Last league title: 1968.

Last NCAA appearance: 1968.

Site: New York. **Home court:** Leven Gym (3,400).

Website: www.gocolumbiaions.com

IVY

1. Princeton

National Rank: 117

Coach: John Thompson III (16-11, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Key Players: Mike Bechtold, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.5 ppg); Ahmed El-Nokali, G, 6-4/Sr. (8.6 ppg); Andre Logan, F, 6-9/So. (6.8 ppg); Ray Robins, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.8 ppg two seasons ago); Kyle Wente, G, 6-4/Jr. (8 ppg).

Outlook: Thompson, in his first year at the helm, snapped Penn's two-year hold on the Ivy title with a young, inexperienced team that lacked a go-to guy. This year, the Tigers are a little older, a little more experienced and have a big-time freshman in 6-10 Dominick Martin. The return of Robins after a year off also gives Princeton a legitimate scorer. The strength is depth, with players such as forward Konrad Wysocki, last year's Ivy Rookie of the Year, coming off the bench.

Last league title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Princeton, N.J. **Home court:** Jadwin Gym (6,854). **Website:** www.goprincetontigers.com.

2. Pennsylvania

National Rank: 176

Coach: Fran Dunphy (206-122, 12 years).

Key Players: Koko Archibong, F, 6-7/Jr. (10 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 37.9 %); Tim Begley, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Adam Chubb, C, 6-10/So.; Dave Klatsky, G, 5-11/Jr. (7.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 38.2 %, 76.7 FT%, 5.6 spg, 1.4 spg); Ugonna Onyekwe, F, 6-8/Jr. (13.8 ppg, 7.4 rpg).

Outlook: Strange things happened to the Quakers last year, and none stranger than the late-season benching of Onyekwe. Speculation ran rampant that Onyekwe would transfer, but he returned and now must mend his relationship with Dunphy. If it works out, Onyekwe will be the league's best player. If not, he'll be back on the bench for extended periods. Unlike Princeton, Penn accepts transfer students. This season, the Quakers welcome guard Andy Toole from Elon. Penn started last year 0-8 against a tough schedule and never recovered. This season should be different.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** The Palestra (8,700). **Website:** www.pennathletics.com

6. Harvard

National Rank: 259

Coach: Frank Sullivan (111-150, 10 years; 225-236 overall, 17 years).

Key Players: Andrew Gellert, G, 6-1/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 48.0 FG%, 2.8 spg); Patrick Harvey, G, 5-11/Jr. (13.8 ppg, 41.2 3%, 80.5 FT%, 1.7 spg); Elliott Prasse-Freeman, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.8 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 37.9 3%, 75.3 FT%, 6.3 apg, 1.5 spg); Brian Sigafos, C, 6-11/Jr. (6.8 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 63.2 FG%).

Outlook: Harvard has enough talent that it might compete for as high as third place in the league in most seasons, but this season, cracking the top half of the league will be difficult. Harvard will employ a three-guard backcourt with shooter Harvey, playmaker Prasse-Freeman and defensive specialist Gellert. The Crimson might struggle inside.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: 1946.

Site: Cambridge, N.J. **Home court:** Lavietes Pavil. (2,195). **Website:** www.athletics.harvard.edu

7. Cornell

National Rank: 306

Coach: Steve Donahue (7-20, 1 year).

Key Players: Ka'Ron Barnes, G, 6-0/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 1.3 spg); Wallace Prather, G, 5-9/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 1.7 spg); Jake Rohe, F, 6-6/Jr. (7.7 ppg, 5.6 rpg).

Outlook: Donahue will get the Big Red on the right track. It's just won't happen this season. Donahue, a former Penn assistant, pulled off one of the league's biggest upsets last season when his team beat Princeton. But Cornell lost six of its final seven games. This year, it again might wind up near the cellar. But there is hope for the future. Donahue cleaned house and brought in some good, young players, most notably sophomore Barnes and freshman Steve Cobb.

Last league title: 1988.

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Ithaca, N.Y. **Home court:** Newman Arena (4,473). **Website:** www.cornellbigred.com

8. Dartmouth

National Rank: 316

Coach: Dave Faucher (116-147, 10 years).

Key Players: Flinder Boyd, G, 5-11/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 5.2 apg, 1.7 spg); Charles Harris, G, 6-4/Jr. (6.4 ppg, 76.7 FT%); Vedad Osmanovic, F, 6-5/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 36.6 3%).

Outlook: Dartmouth fell to the basement last season and might find it tough to get out. Point guard Boyd returns after a good junior season, but it will be tough for the 5-11 playmaker to make plays without much of a supporting cast. Boyd might have to turn scorer to keep the Big Green in games. Brandon Smith, a 6-8 transfer from Elon College, might provide some help.

Last league title: 1959.

Last NCAA appearance: 1959.

Site: Hanover, N.H. **Home court:** The Leede Arena (2,100). **Website:** www.dartmouth.edu/~sportpub

Schedules

Brown	Columbia	Cornell	Dartmouth	Harvard	Pennsylvania	Princeton	Yale
N16-17 Central Conn. Trn.	N16-17 Pepsi-Marist Cl.*	N16 at Canisius	N16 at Binghamton	N16 Fairfield	N19 at Georgia Tech	N15-16 BCA Classic	N13-14 Guardians Cl.
N20 at Northeastern	N20 Haverford	N19 at Notre Dame	N20 Vermont	N20 at Holy Cross	N22-24 Las Vegas Invit.	N24 at Florida Int'l	N18 at Penn State
N28 at Providence	N24 at Providence	N26 at Bucknell	N24 at New Hamp.	N24 at Lehigh	N28 Drexel	N28 Rider	N20-21 Guardians Cl.*
D1 at High Point	N27 Lehigh	N29 at Syracuse	N27 Holy Cross	N27 Northeastern	D1 at American	D2-3 BB&T Classic	N23 R. Auerbach Cl.**
D6 at Holy Cross	D1 Lafayette	D1 Colgate	N30 Lehigh	D1 Stony Brook	D5 Villanova	D8 Monmouth	N28 Sacred Heart
D8 Wagner	D5 at Army	D5 at Buffalo	D8 Clarkson	D4 at Boston Univ.	D8 St. Joseph's	D12 Kansas	D1 Army
D22 Stony Brook	D8 Boston University	D8 at Lafayette	D11 at Boston Univ.	D8 Colgate	D22 Davidson	D21 Lafayette	D3 at Colgate
D28 Rhode Island	D20-22 Pearl Harbor Cl.	D22 Lehigh	D15 at Harvard	D12 at New Hamp.	D30 at Temple	D29 at Rutgers	D5 at Long Island
D30 at Maine	D27 at UCLA	D28-29 Spider Invit.*	D18 at Quinnipiac	D15 Dartmouth	J5 at Lehigh	J5 Holy Cross	D8 Albany
J2 Army	D30 at San Diego	J2 at Georgia Tech	D21 at Colgate	D18 at Vermont	J7 Fla. International	J11 at Harvard	D11 Rhode Island
J5 Navy	J11 at Yale	J5 Army	D28-29 Lobo Classic*	D21 Sacred Heart	J11 at Dartmouth	J12 at Dartmouth	D28-29 Poinsettia Cl.
J7 U.S. Coast Guard	J12 at Brown	J11 at Brown	J5 Harvard	D28-29 Golden Bear Cl.*	J12 at Harvard	F1 Columbia	J2 at Clemson
J11 Cornell	J15 at Albany	J12 at Yale	J11 Pennsylvania	J5 at Dartmouth	J17 Delaware	F2 Cornell	J11 Columbia
J12 Columbia	J18 Cornell	J19 at Columbia	J12 Princeton	J11 Princeton	J21 Lafayette	F8 at Yale	J12 Cornell
J19 at Yale	J24 at Cornell	J26 Columbia	J18 Albany	J12 Pennsylvania	J24 at La Salle	F9 at Brown	J18 Brown
J26 Yale	F1 at Princeton	F1 at Pennsylvania	J22 Hartford	F1 Brown	J28 St. Joseph's	F12 Pennsylvania	J26 at Brown
F1 at Harvard	F2 at Pennsylvania	F2 at Princeton	F1 Yale	F2 Yale	F1 Cornell	F15 Dartmouth	F1 at Dartmouth
F2 at Dartmouth	F8 Harvard	F8 Dartmouth	F2 Brown	F8 at Columbia	F2 Columbia	F16 Harvard	F2 at Harvard
F8 Princeton	F9 Dartmouth	F9 Harvard	F8 at Cornell	F9 at Cornell	F8 at Yale	F22 Yale	F8 Pennsylvania
F9 Pennsylvania	F15 Brown	F15 Yale	F9 at Columbia	F15 at Pennsylvania	F9 at Brown	F23 Brown	F9 Princeton
F15 at Columbia	F16 Yale	F16 Brown	F15 at Princeton	F16 at Princeton	F12 at Princeton	M1 at Cornell	F15 at Cornell
F16 at Cornell	F22 at Dartmouth	F22 at Harvard	F16 at Pennsylvania	F22 Cornell	F16 Harvard	M2 at Columbia	F16 at Columbia
F22 at Pennsylvania	F23 at Harvard	F23 at Dartmouth	F23 Cornell	F23 Columbia	F22 Brown	M5 at Pennsylvania	F22 at Princeton
F23 at Princeton	M1 Pennsylvania	M1 Princeton	M1 at Brown	M1 at Yale	F23 Yale		F23 at Pennsylvania
M1 Dartmouth	M2 Princeton	M2 Pennsylvania	M2 at Yale	M2 at Brown	M1 at Columbia		M1 Harvard
M2 Harvard	*at Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	*at Richmond, Va.	*at Albuquerque, N.M.	*at Berkeley, Calif.	M2 at Cornell		M2 Dartmouth
					M5 Princeton		*at Kansas City, Mo. **at Washington, D.C.

SWAC

1. Alabama State

National Rank: 123

Coach: Rob Spivery (65-78, 5 years; 240-222, 16 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Joey Ball, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.8 ppg); Keith Gamble, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (10.1 ppg); Tyrone Levett, F, 6-4/Sr. (15.8 ppg, 8.3 rpg); Alvin Pettway, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (14.3 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 55.4 FG%).

Outlook: Alabama State returns four starters from last year's team that won the first regular-season title in school history and resulted in the school's first trip to the NCAA Tournament. The Hornets won with strong halfcourt defense. They led the league in scoring defense and field-goal percent-

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Alabama State*	15	3	22	9
Miss. Valley State	13	4	17	9
Alabama A&M	13	5	17	11
Alcorn State	13	5	15	15
Southern	8	10	11	16
Grambling State	8	10	8	18
Jackson State	7	11	7	23
Texas Southern	5	13	7	22
Prairie View	5	13	6	22
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	2	16	2	25

*Lost to Michigan State, 69-35, in NCAA South first round.

age defense. The biggest question is who will replace point guard Tobarie Burton, the leader of last year's team. Expect 5-10 sophomore Malcolm

Mark Alexander, *The Clarion Ledger* (Jackson, Miss.)

Preseason All-Conference team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Desmond Cambridge, Ala. A&M	G	6-0	Sr.
G	Gregory Burks, Prairie View	G	5-9	Sr.
F	Marcus Fleming, Alcorn State	F	6-8	Sr.
F	Tyrone Levett, Alabama State	F	6-4	Sr.
C	Alvin Pettway, Alabama State	F/C	6-9	Jr.

Player of the Year

Tyrone Levett, Alabama State

Newcomer of the Year

Tim Henderson, G/F, Jackson State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: John Chandler, Jackson State

Best rebounder: Alvin Pettway, Alabama State

Best playmaker: Ashley Robinson, Mississippi Valley St.

Best defender: Joey Ball, Alabama State

Best dunker: Jeremy Jefferson, Arkansas-Pine Bluff

Most versatile: Tyrone Levett, Alabama State

Most flamboyant: Ashley Robinson, Mississippi Valley St.

Best NBA prospect: Gregory Burks, Prairie View

Campbell to fill that spot.

Last league title: 2001.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 2000.

Site: Montgomery, Ala. **Home court:** Joe L. Reed Acadome (8,000) **Website:** www.alasu.edu/sports

2. Alcorn State

National Rank: 178

Coach: Dave Whitney (475-264, 25 years; 530-327, 30 years; 3-5 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Jason Cable, G, 6-2/Jr. (11.8 ppg, 1.9 spg); Jeff Cammon, G, 5-11/Jr.; Marcus Fleming, F, 6-8/Sr. (16.7 ppg, 7.7 rpg); Walter Harper, C, 6-8/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 51.2 FG%); Tori Harris, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Brian Jackson, F, 6-6, Jr. (10.6 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 50 FG%).

Outlook: After winning back-to-back regular-season titles, Alcorn State slipped to third last season. The Braves' goal is to regain the top spot and send legendary coach Whitney out a winner in his final season. To do so, Alcorn must take care of the ball. The Braves averaged 19.2 turnovers a game last season. All five starters return, led by first-team All-SWAC pick Fleming.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 1999.

Site: Lorman, Miss. **Home court:** Davey L. Whitney Complex (7,000). **Website:** www.alcorn.edu/athletics

3. Alabama A&M

National Rank: 198

Coach: Vann Pettaway (326-121, 15 years).

Key players: Desmond Cambridge, G, 6-0/Sr. (19.2 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 38.7 3%, 77.1 FT%, 3.8 spg); Dwayn Harris, G, 5-11/Jr. (7.9 ppg, 5 apg, 2.1 spg); Steve Ward, G, 6-3/Sr. (14.2 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.2 spg).

Outlook: The Bulldogs thrive with a variety of pressing defenses. The leader is Cambridge, who enjoyed a breakout season a year ago. He was the Bulldogs' leading scorer in the last 11 games and topped 40 points twice. Ward is a dangerous threat from the perimeter. Nicholson leads a parade of athletic 6-6 to 6-8 types on the front line.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Normal, Ala. **Home court:** T.M. Elmore Gym (6,000). **Website:** www.aamu.edu/html/sports.htm

4. Jackson State

National Rank: 269

Coach: Andy Stoglin (178-179, 12 years; 211-202, 14 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Raymond Appleberry, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.2 ppg); Richard Bradley, F, 6-3/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 8 rpg); Kendell Noel, G, 5-11/Sr. (9.7 ppg, 48 3%); Tim Henderson, G/F, 6-3/Jr.

Outlook: With virtually every player, including Bradley, returning and talented newcomers ready to join the mix, the Tigers should be much-improved. JSU struggled to score points last year. That no longer should be a problem with the addition of exciting guards Henderson, Damion Smith and Reggie Taylor, who all sat out last season, and 6-8 Eric Chess, who averaged 19 points and 14 rebounds at Grand Rapids (Mich.) CC.

Last league title: 1996 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Jackson, Miss.

Home court: Williams Athletics and Assembly Center (8,000). **Website:** www.jsu.edu/athletics

Schedules

Alabama A&M

N17 Tuskegee
N24 at Detroit
N28 at Mississippi St.
D1 Athens State
D15 at Jackson State
D17 at Grambling St.
D21 at Alabama
J5 Ark.-Pine Bluff
J7 Miss. Valley St.
J12 at Alabama State
J14 at Savannah St.
J19 at Southern
J21 at Alcorn State
J26 Prairie View
J28 Texas Southern
J30 at Morris Brown
F2 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
F4 at Miss. Valley St.
F9 Alabama State
F11 Savannah State
F16 Alcorn State
F20 Morris Brown
F23 at Prairie View
F25 at Texas Southern
F28 Jackson State
M2 Grambling State

Alabama State

N15 Oregon*
N16 Long Beach St.*
N17 West. Michigan*
N24 Mobile
N28 Florida A&M
N30-D1 Hawkeye Chal.
D5 Montevallo
D8 at Morris Brown
D15 at Grambling St.
D17 at Jackson State
D22 Morris Brown
J2 at Birm. South.
J5 Miss. Valley St.
J7 Ark.-Pine Bluff
J12 Alabama A&M
J19 at Alcorn State
J21 at Southern
J26 Texas Southern
J28 Prairie View
F2 at Miss. Valley St.
F4 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
F9 at Alabama A&M
F16 Alcorn State
F18 Southern
F23 at Texas Southern
F25 at Prairie View
F28 Grambling State
M2 Jackson State
*at Eugene, Ore.

Alcorn State

N19 at N. Mexico St.
N27 at Southern Miss
D1 at New Mexico
D4 at UAB
D10 at Hawaii
D15 at Prairie View
D17 at Texas Southern
D27-28 Min. Winter Jam
J5 Jackson State
J7 Grambling State
J12 at Miss. Valley St.
J23 at Morris Brown
J26 at Southern
J28 at UTEP
F2 at Jackson State
F4 at Grambling St.
F9 Miss. Valley St.
F11 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F16 at Alabama State
F18 at Alabama A&M
F23 Southern
F25 Morris Brown
F28 Texas Southern
M2 Prairie View

Ark.-Pine Bluff

N17 at Colorado
N19 at Wyoming
N21 at Arkansas St.
N24 at Ark.-Little Rock
N29 at Gonzaga
D1 at Washington St.
D4 at Iowa State
D6 at Drake
D15 at Miss. Valley St.
D19 at Marquette
D29 at Mississippi
J5 at Alabama A&M
J7 at Alabama State
J12 Southern
J14 Alcorn State
J19 at Prairie View
J21 at Texas South.
J26 Grambling State
J28 Jackson State
F2 Alabama A&M
F4 Alabama State
F9 at Southern
F11 at Alcorn State
F16 Prairie View
F18 Texas Southern
F23 at Grambling St.
F25 at Jackson State
M2 Miss. Valley St.

Grambling State

N16-17 Hobby Classic
N19 at Tulsa
N21 NW Louisiana St.
N29 at Creighton
D1 at Missouri
D8 at Ark.-Monticello
D13 Texas College
D15 Alabama State
D17 Alabama A&M
D21 Ark.-Little Rock
J5 at Southern
J7 at Alcorn State
J12 Prairie View
J14 Texas Southern
J19 at Jackson State
J26 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
J28 at Miss. Valley St.
F2 Southern
F4 Alcorn State
F9 at Prairie View
F11 at Texas Southern
F16 Jackson State
F23 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F25 Miss. Valley St.
F28 at Alabama State
M2 at Alabama A&M

Jackson State

N17 at Southern Miss
N21 Stephen F. Austin
N26 Arkansas State
N29 at Missouri
D1 Louisiana Tech
D5 McNeese State
D8 at Oklahoma St.
D15 Alabama A&M
D17 Alabama State
D22 at Louisiana Tech
D29 at UAB
J5 at Alcorn State
J7 at Southern
J12 Texas Southern
J14 Prairie View
J19 Grambling State
J26 at Miss. Valley St.
J28 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
F2 Alcorn State
F4 Southern
F9 at Texas Southern
F11 at Prairie View
F16 at Grambling St.
F23 Mississippi State
F25 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F28 at Alabama A&M
M2 at Alabama State

Miss. Valley St.

N13-22 Legends Classic
N28 Arkansas State
D8 Delta State
D10 at Arkansas State
D15 Ark.-Pine Bluff
D17 at SE Missouri St.
D21-22 Sun Bowl Trn.
D29 at Creighton
J2 at Delta State
J5 at Alabama State
J7 at Alabama A&M
J12 Alcorn State
J14 Southern
J19 at Texas Southern
J21 at Prairie View
J26 Jackson State
J28 Grambling State
F2 Alabama State
F4 Alabama A&M
F9 at Alcorn State
F11 at Southern
F16 Texas Southern
F18 Prairie View
F23 at Jackson State
F25 at Grambling St.
M2 at Ark.-Pine Bluff

Prairie View

N14-16 BCA Invitational
N19 Huston-Tillotson
N24 at Washington St.
N28 at South Florida
D1 at Arizona State
D4 Paul Quinn
D15 Alcorn State
D17 Southern
D20 at Wright State
D22 at Cleveland State
J12 at Grambling St.
J14 at Jackson State
J19 Ark.-Pine Bluff
J21 Miss. Valley St.
J26 at Alabama A&M
J28 at Alabama State
F5 at Texas Southern
F9 Grambling State
F11 Jackson State
F16 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
F18 at Miss. Valley St.
F23 Alabama A&M
F25 Alabama State
F28 at Southern
M2 at Alcorn State

Southern

N19 at LSU
N26 West Alabama
D1 at Centenary
D8 at Missouri
D13 at Colorado
D15 at Texas Southern
D17 at Prairie View
D20 San Francisco
J5 Grambling
J7 Jackson State
J12 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
J14 at Miss. Valley St.
J17 Morris Brown
J19 Alabama A&M
J21 Alabama State
J26 Alcorn State
J28 at Morris Brown
F2 at Grambling
F9 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F11 Miss. Valley St.
F16 at Alabama A&M
F18 at Alabama State
F23 at Alcorn State
F28 Prairie View
M2 Texas Southern

Texas Southern

N19 at New Mexico
N24 at Texas-Pan Am.
N27 at Lamar
N30-D1 Coca Cola Cl.
D4 Houston
D8 at S.F. Austin
D15 Southern
D17 Alcorn State
D27-28 Winter Jam
J12 at Jackson State
J14 at Grambling St.
J19 Miss. Valley St.
J21 Ark.-Pine Bluff
J26 at Alabama State
J28 at Alabama A&M
F2 at Prairie View
F5 Prairie View
F9 Jackson State
F11 Grambling State
F16 at Mississippi St.
F18 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
F23 Alabama State
F25 Alabama A&M
F28 at Alcorn State
M2 at Southern

5. Grambling State

National Rank: 270

Coach: Larry Wright (9-48, 2 years).

Key players: Paul Haynes, F, 6-7/So. (13.9 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 76.2 FG%); Keith Howell, G, 6-0/Jr. (10.2 ppg, 39.5 3%, 87.3 FT%); William McDonald, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (9.6 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 2.4 bpg); Nick Mitchell, G, 5-10/Jr. (6.1 ppg, 1.7 spg).

Outlook: A fifth-place finish usually isn't much to get excited over. However, when coming off a 1-30 year as Grambling was a year ago, fifth place is progress. Wright, a former Grambling star, didn't inherit much when he returned to his alma mater, but he upgraded the talent level by bringing in a good recruiting class, most of which returns.

Last league title: 1989.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Grambling, La. **Home court:** Memorial Gym (4,000). **Website:** www.gram.edu

6. Prairie View

National Rank: 282

Coach: Elwood Plummer (153-337, 17 years; 329-443 overall, 27 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Gregory Burks, G, 5-9/Sr. (21.3 ppg, 4.5 apg); Blannon Campbell, G, 6-0/Jr. (9.9 ppg, 2 spg); Ray Lark, F, 6-5/Jr. (13.1 ppg, 6.1 rpg); Jamar Miles, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.1 ppg).

Outlook: Last season was without a doubt one Plummer would like to forget. The Panthers lost three players to season-ending knee injuries. The excitable Burks is back. So is a host of returnees, led by Lark and Campbell.

Last league title: 1962.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Prairie View, Texas. **Home court:** William Nicks Arena (5,000). **Website:** www.pvamu.edu/sports

7. Texas Southern

National Rank: 288

Coach: Ronnie Courtney (1st year).

Key players: Ricky Bennett, G, 6-2/Jr. (15.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.6 spg); Rakim Hollis, G, 6-2/Jr. (14 ppg); Chris Miller, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (16.3 ppg, 9.7 rpg, 1.2 spg).

Outlook: Longtime coach Robert Moreland was fired after 26 seasons and a school-record 400 wins. Courtney led Sugarland Willow Ridge High to two 5-A state championships in four years. He inherits a team loaded with guards who can score. The problem? There's no one inside.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1995.

Site: Houston. **Home court:** Health & PE Arena (7,500). **Website:** www.tsu.edu/athletics

8. Mississippi Valley State

National Rank: 295

Coach: Lafayette Stribling (255-265, 18 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: D'Jamal Jackson, G/F, 6-6/Sr.

(11.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 40.6 %); Ashley Robinson, G, 5-9/Sr. (9.8 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 7.4 apg, 86.5 FT%).

Outlook: The good news is Robinson, who led the league in assists, and Jackson, who led the league in 3-point percentage, return. The bad news is six seniors, including league player of the year DeWayne Jefferson and first-team center Henry Jordan, are gone.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Itta Bena, Miss. **Home court:** Harrison HPER Complex (5,500). **Website:** www.mvsu.edu/athletics

9. Southern

National Rank: 298

Coach: Ben Jobe (1st year, 506-297 overall, 28 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Keith Dixon, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 6.4 rpg); Brian Johnson, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (14.1 ppg).

Outlook: Jobe, 68, and out of basketball last season, returns to head the Southern program he abandoned months before the 1996-97 season

began. He inherits a team that lost four seniors, three of them starters.

Last league title: 1990.

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Baton Rouge, La. **Home court:** F.G. Clark Activity Center (7,500). **Website:** www.subr.edu/athletics

10. Arkansas-Pine Bluff

National Rank: 322

Coach: Harold Blevins (34-121, 6 years).

Key players: Antwan Emsweller, C, 6-8/Jr.

(7.7 ppg, 5.7 rpg); Thaddeus Hackworth, G, 6-0/Jr. (7.2 ppg); Jeremy Jefferson, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 10.7 rpg); Michael Vickers, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.3 ppg).

Outlook: The Golden Lions were the worst Division I team in the country last season (No. 319 RPI). The top five scorers return, led by Jefferson. An explosive leaper, he can score but has limited range.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Pine Bluff, Ark. **Home court:** HYPER Complex (8,000). **Website:** www.uapb.edu

BIG SOUTH

1. Winthrop

National Rank: 139

Coach: Gregg Marshall (60-30, 3 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Eyo Effiong, C/F, 6-9/Sr.; Tywan Harris, G, 5-11/Sr.; Derrick Knox, F/G, 6-3, Sr.; Greg Lewis, F, 6-6, Sr.; Marcus Stewart, F, 6-6, Sr.; Tyrone Walker, F/G, 6-6/So.; Pierre Wooten, G, 6-3, Jr.

Outlook: This is the best team Marshall has had at Winthrop, and part of it is because of the depth developed as a result of injuries. Lewis and Effiong missed most of last season. Harris, a former Clemson walk-on, and sophomore forward Tyrone Walker were Big South Tournament stars.

Last league title: 2000.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.

Site: Rock Hill, S.C. **Home court:** Winthrop Coliseum (6,100).

Website: www.winthrop.edu/athletics

2. Radford

National Rank: 175

Coach: Ron Bradley (178-108, 10 years; 274-159 overall, 15 years).

Key players: Peanut Arrington, G, 6-3, Jr.; Mike Hornbuckle, G, 6-1, Sr.; Andrey Savtchenko, C, 7-0, Sr.; Correy Watkins, F, 6-7, Sr.

Outlook: There's a lot to like. Savtchenko and Watkins finished 1-2 among Big South rebounding leaders. Arrington and Hornbuckle make for a formidable, interchangeable backcourt. But Bradley's full-court pressure might not be enough for a trip to the NCAA tourney; Radford needs a little luck.

Last league title: 2001.

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Radford, Va. **Home court:** Dedmon Center (5,000). **Website:** www.radford.edu/athletics

3. UNC-Asheville

National Rank: 214

Coach: Eddie Biedenbach (74-69, 5 years; 103-120 overall, 8 years).

Key players: Billy Allen, F, 6-5, So.; Colin Shaw, G/F, 6-6, Jr.; Alex Kragel, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Andre Smith, G, 6-2, Jr.

Outlook: Smith is tenacious at both ends and potentially one of the league's most dominant players. He'll miss departed leading scorer Brett Carey, but Kragel was recruited to help fill the void. Allen, a Big South all-rookie team pick last year, projects as a double-figure scorer.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Asheville, N.C. **Home court:** Justice Center (1,100); Asheville Civic Center (6,000).

Website: www.unca.edu/athletics

4. Coastal Carolina

National Rank: 237

Coach: Pete Strickland (25-58, 3 years).

Key players: Torrey Butler, F, 6-3, Sr.; Alvin Green, G, 5-9/So.; Antonio Darden, F, 6-3/Jr. (RS); Brandon Newby, G, 6-2, Jr.; Derrick Robinson, F, 6-4, Jr.

Outlook: Butler, the Big South player of the year, leads an athletic, veteran cast. Green, an All-Big South rookie team selection, joins with Newby to form a quick, versatile backcourt. Darden is a force inside. This is a key season for Strickland.

Last league title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1993.

Site: Conway, S.C. **Home court:** Kimbel Gym (1,800). **Website:** www.coastal.edu/athletics

5. Charleston Southern

National Rank: 246

Coach: Jim Platt (10-19, 1 year; 66-78 overall, 5 years).

Key players: Nathan Ball, F, 6-8/Fr.; Gene Granger, G, 6-3, Jr.; Ed O'Neil, G, 6-0, So.; Nikola Pejovic, C, 6-9/Sr.; James Seegars, G, 6-3, Jr.

Outlook: O'Neil is a quick point guard, and Granger and Seegars blossomed as sophomores.

Gene Sapakoff

The (Charleston) Post and Courier

Preseason All-Conference team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brendon Rowell, Elon	6-3	195	Sr.
G	Peanut Arrington, Radford	6-3	188	Jr.
F	Torrey Butler, Coastal Carolina	6-3	205	Sr.
F	Correy Watkins, Radford	6-7	195	Sr.
C	Andrey Savtchenko, Radford	7-0	265	Sr.

Player of the Year

Torrey Butler, Coastal Carolina

Newcomer of the Year

Sheldon Bailey, G/F, Winthrop

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Torrey Butler, Coastal Carolina

Best rebounder: Andrey Savtchenko, Radford

Best playmaker: Alvin Green, Coastal Carolina

Best defender: Correy Watkins, Radford

Best dunker: Greg Lewis, Winthrop

Most versatile: Correy Watkins, Radford

Most flamboyant: Chris Caldwell, Liberty

Best NBA prospect: Andrey Savtchenko, Radford

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Radford	12	2	19	10
Winthrop*	11	3	18	13
UNC Asheville	9	5	15	13
Charleston Southern	6	8	10	19
Coastal Carolina	6	8	8	20
Liberty	5	9	13	15
Elon	4	10	9	20
High Point	3	11	8	20

*Lost to Northwestern State, 71-67, in NCAA Tournament play-in game.

But with both his leading scorer and rebounder gone, Platt must get consistent rebounding from Pejovic or Ball.

Last league title: 1997.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home court:** CSU Fieldhouse (1,500). **Website:** www.csusports.com

(Big South continued)

6. High Point**National Rank: 294****Coach:** Jerry Steele (452-385, 29 years; 603-559 overall, 37 years)**Key players:** Doug Alves, G, 5-11, Sr. (9.1 ppg); Dustin Van Weerdhuizen, G, 6-6, Jr. (11.8 ppg, 4.9 rpg); Jermaine Wallace, F/C, 6-7, Sr. (11.2 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 46.8 FG%).**Outlook:** Where there's a Van Weerdhuizen, there's a way. Where there are two, there's much confusion for a radio broadcaster. Dustin V.W. is the All-Big South candidate, a polished transfer student from Boise State who joined his brother Derek, a senior guard (7.6 ppg), last season. Wallace arrived from Lincoln College (Ill.) and gave the Panthers an inside presence, but High Point lacks depth and hit only 39 percent from the field. Steele wants more from Alves and 6-3 senior Mantas Ignatavicius.**Last league title:** None.**Last NCAA appearance:** None.**Site:** High Point, N.C. **Home court:** Millis Athletic Center (2,565).**Website:** www.highpointpanthers.com**7. Liberty****National Rank: 297****Coach:** Mel Hankinson (31-52, 3 years; 356-328

overall, 24 years).

Key players: Rob Attaway, F, 6-6, Jr.; Torin Beeler, F, 6-6/Fr.; Chris Caldwell, G, 6-1, Sr.; Mats Persson, F, 6-8/So. (JC); Jason Sarchet, F, 6-10/So. (JC).**Outlook:** Caldwell and Attaway are the only two players who have started a Big South game. Caldwell is dynamic, but the recruits must be as good as advertised for the Flames to move up. Liberty will lean heavily on Sarchet and Persson. Beeler looks like a potential Big South star.**Last league title:** 1994.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1994.**Site:** Lynchburg, Va. **Home court:** Vines Center (9,000). **Website:** www.liberty.edu/athletics**8. Elon****National Rank: 317****Coach:** Mark Simons (84-138, 8 years; 179-240 overall, 14 years).**Key players:** Chris Adams, F, 6-6/Jr.; David Hall, G, 6-4, Sr.; Shamar Johnson, F, 6-5, Jr.; Brendon Rowell, G, 6-3, Sr.**Outlook:** As long as Rowell is around, there's hope. He was the Big South's second-leading scorer. The problem is defense and rebounding, and Johnson and Adams will be asked to do more

of the little things that didn't get done last year.

Last league title: None.**Last NCAA appearance:** None.**Site:** Elon, N.C. **Home court:** Alumni Gym (2,000).**Website:** www.elon.edu/athletics**Birmingham Southern****National Rank: NR****Coach:** Duane Reboul (315-71, 12 years).**Key players:** T.R. Reed, G, 6-0/Sr.; Corey Watkins, G, 6-3/Sr.; Rashard Willie, G, 5-10/Sr.**Outlook:** Birmingham Southern will play 14 games against Big South foes while it waits for full league accreditation and NCAA Tournament eligibility in 2003-04. Is it ready? Well, the Panthers beat Winthrop in a midseason tournament game last year and finished the season strong, with 12 wins in their last 15 games. Look for Reboul's guys to raise more eyebrows this season as four senior starters return.**Last league title:** None.**Last NCAA appearance:** None.**Site:** Birmingham, Ala. **Home court:** Bill Battle Coliseum (2,000).**Website:** www.bsc.edu/athletics**Schedules****Birm. Southern**

N16 at SE Missouri St

N19 Jacksonville St.

N24 Stetson

N27 at Winthrop

D1 Butler

D3 at East Carolina

D6 Texas College

D8 at Rice

D18 Elon

D20 Univ. of South

D28-29 Gossner Cl.

J2 Alabama State

J5 Liberty

J12 High Point

J16 Florida Atlantic

J19 at Coastal Caro.

J21 at Char. Southern

J26 at Savannah St.

J29 Char. Southern

F2 at Elon

F4 at High Point

F7 Winthrop

F13 Coastal Carolina

F19 at Liberty

F23 Savannah State

Char. Southern

N16 at Coll. of Char.

N19 Anderson

N24 William & Mary

N27 at Georgia State

D1 The Citadel

D12 at VMI

D15 North Greenville

D17 at Virginia

D19 at NC State

D22 at Clemson

D28 at S. Carolina

J2 at UNC Asheville

J5 at Elon

J7 at High Point

J12 Liberty

J14 Radford

J21 Birm. Southern

J24 at Winthrop

J26 Coastal Carolina

J29 at Birm. Southern

F2 at Liberty

F4 at Radford

F7 High Point

F9 Elon

F12 at Fairfield

F16 Winthrop

F21 UNC Asheville

F23 at Coastal Caro.

Coast. Carolina

N17 at Xavier

N21 at Georgetown

N24 Western Carolina

N29 at Clemson

D1 at Coll. of Char.

D4 East Tenn. State

D9 S.C. State

D15 at Old Dominion

D21 Campbell

D29 at The Citadel

J2 at Navy

J5 at High Point

J7 at Elon

J12 Radford

J14 Liberty

J19 Birm. Southern

J23 at UNC Asheville

J26 at Char. Southern

J31 Winthrop

F2 at Radford

F5 at Liberty

F7 Elon

F9 High Point

F13 at Birm. Southern

F16 UNC Asheville

F20 at Winthrop

F23 Char. Southern

Elon

N16 N.C. A&T

N18 at Wake Forest

N20 Lynchburg

N23 at Florida State

N27 UNC Greensboro

N30-D1 First Merch. Cl.

D4 at Davidson

D6 Bluefield

D15 at Clemson

D18 at Birm. Southern

D28 at Arkansas

J2 Radford

J5 Char. Southern

J7 Coastal Carolina

J12 at Winthrop

J19 at UNC Asheville

J21 Liberty

J26 at High Point

J29 at Liberty

J32 Birm. Southern

F4 Winthrop

F7 at Coastal Caro.

F9 at Char. Southern

F13 UNC Asheville

F16 at Radford

F23 High Point

High Point

N20 William & Mary

N24 UNC Wilmington

N27 Warren Wilson

D1 Brown

D6 Eastern Kentucky

D6 Delaware

D8 Wright State

D15 at Oklahoma

D18 at Florida

J3 Covenant College

J5 Coastal Carolina

J7 Char. Southern

J12 at Birm. South.

J16 at UNC Asheville

J19 at Radford

J21 Winthrop

J24 at Liberty

J26 Elon

J29 at Winthrop

F2 UNC Asheville

F4 Birm. Southern

F7 at Char. South.

F9 at Coastal Carol.

F13 Radford

F16 Liberty

F23 at Elon

Liberty

N16 at Vanderbilt

N19 Shenandoah Val.

N23-25 Hawaii Pac. Cl.

D1 at Appal'chan St.

D4 Florida Atlantic

D8 James Madison

D14 Tusculum

D20 at Northwestern

D22 Air Force

D29 at Duquesne

J2 at American

J5 at Birm. Southern

J8 UNC Asheville

J12 at Char. Southern

J14 at Coastal Caro.

J19 Winthrop

J21 at Elon

J24 High Point

J26 at Radford

J29 Elon

F2 Char. Southern

F4 Coastal Carolina

F7 at UNC Asheville

F14 at Winthrop

F16 at High Point

F19 Birm. Southern

F23 Radford

UNC Asheville

N16 at West Virginia

N19 UNC Greensboro

N21 at Minnesota

N24 at Campbell

N28 East Tenn. St.

D1 at W. Carolina

D4 at Furman

D8 Montreat

D15 at N.C. State

D17 at Michigan St.

D20 at Auburn

D30 Appalachian St.

J2 Char. Southern

J6 at Radford

J8 at Liberty

J13 Brevard

J16 High Point

J19 Elon

J23 at Coastal Caro.

J26 Winthrop

J30 Radford

F2 at High Point

F9 Liberty

F13 at Elon

F16 Coastal Carolina

F20 at Char. Southern

F23 at Winthrop

Radford

N15-17 Top of World Cl.

N21 at Purdue

N26 UNC Wilmington

N28 Richmond

D1 Middle Tenn.

D4 American

D6 Marshall

D8 at East Tenn. St.

D15 at Virginia Tech

D17 at Tennessee

D22 at East Carolina

D28 State Farm Cl.

J2 at Elon

J6 UNC Asheville

J9 Winthrop

J12 at Coastal Caro.

J14 at Char. Southern

J19 High Point

J26 Liberty

J30 at UNC Asheville

F2 Coastal Carolina

F4 Char. Southern

F9 at Winthrop

F13 at High Point

F16 Elon

F23 at Liberty

Winthrop

N16 Lander

N18 at Ohio State

N24 at Nebraska

N27 Birm. Southern

N29-30 Phoenix Cla.

D15 Marshall

D18 at Clemson

D21-22 Costner Bros.Tr.

D28 George Mason*

J9 Radford

J12 Elon

J19 at Liberty

J21 at High Point

J24 Char. Southern

J26 at UNC Asheville

J29 High Point

J31 at Coastal Caro.

F4 at Elon

F7 at Birm. Southern

F9 Radford

F14 Liberty

F16 at Char. Southern

F19 Coastal Carolina

F23 UNC Asheville

*at Halifax, Nova Scotia

AMERICA EAST

1. Boston University**National Rank: 130****Coach:** Dennis Wolff (107-97, 7 years; 137-115 overall, 9 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).**Key players:** Kevin Fitzgerald, G, 6-2/So.; Jason Grochowalski, F, 6-6/So. (12.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 41.3 %); Paul Seymour, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (12 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Matt Turner, G, 5-9/Jr. (11.5 ppg, 40 %).**Outlook:** Turner has clashed with Wolff but makes up for that by being the league's most dynamic offensive performer. With the departure of Drexel, Delaware and Hofstra to the Colonial, the Terriers return enough firepower to make a run at the title.**Last league title:** 1997.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1997.**Site:** Boston. **Home court:** Case Gymnasium (1,800). **Website:** www.bu.edu/athletics**2. Maine****National Rank: 151****Coach:** John Giannini (79-67, 5 years; 229-94 overall, 11 years).**Key players:** Clayton Brown, F, 6-7/Jr.; Huggy Dye, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.3 ppg); Errick Greene, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 50 %); Derrick Jackson, G, 6-2/Jr. (6.3 ppg); Justin Rowe, C, 7-0/Jr. (JC);

John Holyoke, Bangor (Maine) Daily
News

Preseason All-Conference team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Matt Turner, Boston U.	5-9	160	Jr.
G	T.J. Sorrentine, Vermont	5-11	170	So.
G	Huggy Dye, Maine	6-2	195	Sr.
F	Paul Seymour, Boston U.	6-6	195	Jr.
C	Justin Rowe, Maine	7-0	235	Jr.

Player of the Year

Matt Turner, Boston University

Newcomer of the Year

Justin Rowe, Maine

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Mantas Storpirstis, Hartford

Best rebounder: Trevor Gaines, Vermont

Best playmaker: T.J. Sorrentine, Vermont

Best defender: Derrick Jackson, Maine

Best leaper: Matt Turner, Boston U.

Most versatile: Erick Greene, Maine

Most flamboyant: Huggy Dye, Maine

Best NBA prospect: Justin Rowe, Maine

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Hofstra*	16	2	26	5
Delaware%	14	4	20	10
Drexel%	12	6	15	12
Maine	10	8	18	11
Boston University	9	9	14	14
Northeastern	8	10	10	19
Vermont	7	11	12	17
Towson%	7	11	12	17
New Hampshire	6	12	7	21
Hartford	1	17	4	24

*Lost to UCLA, 61-48, in NCAA East first round.

%Now member of Colonial Athletic Conference.

Outlook: Everyone is talking about Rowe. He should block tons of shots and allow the Bears to gamble on the perimeter. Giannini's team might be poised to get its first NCAA bid. The Black Bears took a blow when Tory Cavalieri transferred after an all-rookie freshman season, but Greene, Jackson and Dye make the backcourt a strength.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Orono, Maine. **Home court:** Alford Arena (5,712). **Website:** www.goblackbears.com

3. Vermont

National Rank: 190

Coach: Tom Brennan (175-240, 15 years; 227-315 overall, 20 years).

Key players: Grant Anderson, F, 6-7/Jr. (5.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg); Trevor Gaines, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.9 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 50.5 FG%); Matt Sheftic, C, 6-8/Jr. (10 ppg, 5.3 rpg); T.J. Sorrentine, G, 5-11/So. (14.8 ppg, 5.5 apg, 1.6 spg, 81.6 FT%).

Outlook: Vermont lost star guard Tony Orciari (17.7 ppg) to graduation, but Sorrentine, the league's rookie of the year, returns. He's a nifty passer. Gaines is hard to handle when he gets a spot on the low block.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Schedules

Albany

N17 Lafayette
N20 at Ohio State
N24 at Quinnipiac
N27 at Siena
D2 Syracuse
D5 at Bucknell
D8 at Yale
D11 Army
D23 at Robert Morris
D31 at Vermont
J3 at Maine
J7 Binghamton
J13 Maine
J15 Columbia
J18 at Dartmouth
J20 at New Hampshire
J24 Boston University
J26 Northeastern
J30 New Hampshire
F2 at Stony Brook
F5 at Binghamton
F8 at Hartford
F10 Vermont
F12 at Northeastern
F16 at Boston Univ.
F22 Hartford
F24 Stony Brook

Binghamton

N16 Dartmouth
N18 at Syracuse
N23-24 R. Auerbach Cl.
N27 Oral Roberts
N30-D1 First Merch. Cl.
D8 at Army
D29 at Stony Brook
J2 Hartford
J4 Quinnipiac
J7 at Albany
J10 at Boston Univ.
J12 at Northeastern
J17 Stony Brook
J20 Maine
J24 Northeastern
J26 Boston University
J28 Colgate
J31 at Maine
F2 at New Hampshire

F5 Albany
F8 Vermont
F13 at Vermont
F18 at Hartford
F24 New Hampshire

Boston Univ.

N13-21 Guardians Cl.
N18 at Boston Coll.
N25 St. Peter's
N28 at Geo. Wash.
D1 at Holy Cross
D4 Harvard
D8 at Columbia
D12 Dartmouth
D22 at Providence
D28-29 Oneida Classic
J2 at New Hampshire
J5 Vermont
J7 at Hartford
J10 Binghamton
J12 Stony Brook
J20 at Northeastern
J24 at Albany
J26 at Binghamton
J29 Hartford
F2 at Vermont
F8 at Maine
F10 New Hampshire
F14 Northeastern
F16 Albany
F21 at Stony Brook
F24 Maine

Hartford

N16 at Delaware St.
N19 at Iowa State
N22-24 Las Vegas Inv.
N29-30 Phoenix Classic
D3 at Manhattan
D8 Fairfield Dickinson
D11 at Siena
D13 at Rutgers
D28 Clemson
J2 at Binghamton
J5 Northeastern
J7 Boston University
J12 New Hampshire
J17 at Maine
J20 Vermont
J22 at Dartmouth

J24 at New Hampshire
J26 Stony Brook
J29 at Boston Univ.
F1 at Northeastern
F5 Maine
F8 Albany
F13 Md.-E. Shore
F15 at Stony Brook
F18 Binghamton
F22 at Albany
F24 at Vermont

Maine

N12 at Arkansas*
N16-17 Fla. Inter. Tour.
N20 Delaware State
N25 Troy State
N30-D1 Mich. State Tr.
D9 at Sacred Heart
D11 at Norfolk State
D23 at Massachusetts
D30 Brown
J6 at Stony Brook
J11 at Vermont
J13 at Albany
J17 Hartford
J20 at Binghamton
J26 at New Hampshire
J31 Binghamton
F3 at Northeastern
F5 at Hartford
F8 Boston University
F10 Stony Brook
F14 New Hampshire
F17 Vermont
F21 Northeastern
F24 at Boston Univ.
*Preseason NIT.

New Hampshire

N16 at Notre Dame
N21 at Boston College
N24 Dartmouth
N26 at Connecticut
N28 Florida
D1 at Buffalo
D6 New England
D8 at Lehigh
D12 Harvard
D29 Northeastern
J2 Boston University

J5 Colgate
J7 Army
J12 at Hartford
J14 at Vermont
J18 at Stony Brook
J20 Albany
J24 Hartford
J26 Maine
J30 at Albany
F2 Binghamton
F5 at Northeastern
F8 Stony Brook
F10 at Boston Univ.
F14 at Maine
F22 Vermont
F24 at Binghamton

Northeastern

N16-17 Pepsi Marist Cl.
N20 Brown
N24 Northern Arizona
N27 at Harvard
N29 at Virginia Tech
D3 at Loyola (Md.)
D8 at Connecticut
D17 at Drexel
D20 Rider
D22 at Rhode Island
D29 at New Hampshire
J5 at Hartford
J7 Vermont
J10 Stony Brook
J12 Binghamton
J17 at Vermont
J20 Boston University
J24 at Binghamton
J26 at Albany
F1 Hartford
F3 at Maine
F5 New Hampshire
F12 Albany
F14 at Boston Univ.
F17 at Stony Brook
F22 Maine

Stony Brook

N16 at Quinnipiac
N19 at Sacred Heart
N23-24 R. Auerbach Cl.
N26 Cleveland State
N28 at Rutgers

D1 at Harvard
D5 at St. John's
D8 at Hofstra
D11 at Villanova
D13 at West Point
D22 at Brown
D29 Binghamton
J2 at Vermont
J6 Maine
J10 at Northeastern
J12 at Boston Univ.
J15 at Binghamton
J18 New Hampshire
J24 Vermont
J26 at Hartford
F2 Albany
F8 at New Hampshire
F10 at Maine
F15 Hartford
F17 Northeastern
F21 Boston University
F24 at Albany

Vermont

N16-17 Mohegan Sun Cl.
N20 at Dartmouth
N24 Cleveland State
N26 at Duquesne
D2 Lehigh
D5 at Sacred Heart
D18 Harvard
D27-28 Fla. Intl. Tour.
D31 Albany
J2 Stony Brook
J5 at Boston Univ.
J7 at Northeastern
J11 Maine
J14 New Hampshire
J17 Northeastern
J20 at Hartford
J24 at Stony Brook
J26 at Michigan
F2 Boston University
F8 at Binghamton
F10 at Albany
F13 Binghamton
F17 at Maine
F22 at New Hampshire
F24 Hartford

Site: Burlington, Vt. **Home court:** Patrick Gym (3,228). **Website:** www.uvmathletics.com

4. Northeastern

National Rank: 211

Coach: Ron Everhart (1st year; 92-104 overall, 7 years).

Key players: Jean Bain, G, 5-11/Sr. (7.8 ppg, 4.2 apg); Charles Cranford, G, 6-5/Sr. (16.6 ppg); Quilninius Randall, F, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/George Mason); Sylbrin Robinson, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Huskies might have the personnel to contend. Cranford is the league's leading returning scorer. Bain has overcome cancer, a broken wrist and a torn ACL in the past seven years. If he stays healthy, the Huskies will benefit. Insiders say Robinson could contend for league MVP honors.

Last league title: 1991.

Last NCAA appearance: 1991.

Site: Boston. **Home court:** Cabot Gym (2,000).

Website: www.GoNU.com

5. New Hampshire

National Rank: 225

Coach: Phil Rowe (8-28, 2 years; 190-195, 15 years).

Key players: Chris Brown, F, 6-4/Sr. (7.1 ppg, 4 rpg); Marcus Bullock, G, 6-0/So. (9.1 ppg); Austin

Ganly, G/F, 6-6/Sr. (13.3 ppg); Allen Gould, G/F, 6-6/So. (7.4 ppg); Jeff Senulis, F, 6-8/Jr. (7 ppg).

Outlook: Rowe scrapped traditional substitution patterns last season in favor of a five-in, five-out, change-on-the-fly system with full-court pressure. The Wildcats won only seven games, but opponents were forced to adjust. Ganly, Bullock and three others who averaged more than 7 points are back.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Durham, N.H. **Home court:** Whittemore Center (7,200). **Website:** www.unhwildcats.com

6. Stony Brook

National Rank: 234

Coach: Nick Macarchuk (23-34, 2 years, 333-354 overall, 24 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Larry Jennings, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/St. Joseph's, Pa.); Mike Konopka, F, 6-8/So. (6.7 ppg, 40.3%); Jaius McCollum, F, 6-5/So. (8.3 ppg, 52.7 FG%); D.J. Munir, G, 6-3/So. (10.8 ppg, 4 apg).

Outlook: The Seawolves posted a 13-1 home record last season and are expected to be the best of the three new America East entries (University at Albany and Binghamton are the others). Jennings, who started 28 games and averaged 6.3 points a game for St. Joseph's in 1999-2000, should help.

Last league title: None.

(American East continued)

Last NCAA appearance: None.**Site:** Stony Brook, N.Y. **Home court:** Indoor Sports Complex (5,226). **Website:** gseawolves.fansonly.com/sports**7. Hartford****National Rank: 293****Coach:** Larry Harrison (4-24, 1 year).**Key players:** Pierre Johnson, F, 6-6/Jr. (7.7 ppg, 4.1 rpg); Wayne McClinton, G, 6-2/Jr. (6.4 ppg); Josh Odugbela, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (7.4 ppg, 5 rpg); Deon Saunders, F, 6-7/So. (transfer/American); Ryan Stys, G, 5-10/So. (11.9 ppg, 41.7 3%; Mantas Storpirstis, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 38.7 3%, 87.8 FT%).**Outlook:** Harrison, a proven recruiter under Bob Huggins at Cincinnati and Pat Kennedy at DePaul, might have added enough talent to improve. Three freshmen, a junior college transfer and Saunders will bolster a lineup already loaded with shooters.**Last league title:** None.**Last NCAA appearance:** None.**Site:** West Hartford, Conn. **Home court:** Chase**Family Arena** (4,475).**Website:** www.hartfordhawks.com**8. Binghamton****National Rank: 296****Coach:** Al Walker (14-14, 1 year; 156-185 overall, 13 years).**Key players:** Nick Billings, C, 7-0/Fr.; Jeffrey Daws, F, 6-4/Sr. (7.7 ppg, 40.5 3%); Stanley Ocitti, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/UConn); Joost Ooms, C, 6-8/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 5.8 rpg); Jeffrey St. Fort, F, 6-6/Jr. (13 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Brett Watson, 6-0/So. (transfer/UConn); Mike Wright, G, 5-10/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 2.1 spg).**Outlook:** The Bearcats will play a full conference schedule but won't be eligible for the league tourney until 2004. Watson and Ocitti likely will contribute immediately. Add Billings and returning players St. Fort and Wright, and there's a solid nucleus.**Last league title:** None.**Last NCAA appearance:** None.**Site:** Binghamton, N.Y. **Home court:** West Gymnasium (3,000).**Website:** www.athletics.binghamton.edu**9. Albany****National Rank: 320****Coach:** Scott Beeten (6-22, 1 year; 20-32 overall, 2 years).**Key players:** Alex Barnill, F, 6-4/Jr. (7.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg); Will Brand, F, 6-5/Sr. (14 ppg, 6.9 rpg); E.J. Gallup, G, 6-4/So. (17.4 ppg, 41 3%, 1.9 spg); Antione Johnson, G, 6-0/Jr. (11.5 ppg, 40.4 3%); Joe Vukovic, C, 6-7/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 4 rpg, 50.9 FG%).**Outlook:** Beeten didn't have any seniors last season as an independent. The lessons his youthful team learned should pay off as it makes its debut in the America East. Four returning players averaged in double figures. Gallup was the team's top scorer in his freshman season.**Last league title:** None.**Last NCAA appearance:** None.**Site:** Albany, N.Y. **Home court:** Recreation and Convocation Center (5,000).**Website:** www.albany.edu/sports

NORTHEAST

1. Monmouth**National Rank: 140****Coach:** Dave Calloway (41-57, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).**Key players:** Russell Anderson, F, 6-7/Jr. (5.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg); Steve Bridgemohan, F, 6-8/Sr. (5.5 ppg, 4.3 rpg); Rahsaan Johnson, G, 6-0/Sr. (19.1 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 5.7 apg); Jason Krayl, F, 6-5/So. (7.6 ppg); Kevin Owens, C, 6-10/Jr. (9.4 ppg, 5.8 rpg).**Outlook:** After its breathtaking comeback from a 20-point deficit in the NEC Tournament championship game, Monmouth won't be sneaking up on anyone. The Hawks are led by Johnson, who topped the NEC in assists and steals and finished third in scoring last season. He was named league player of the year. The Hawks return four starters but must replace the points generated last year by Gerry Crosby (16.2 ppg). They anticipate a breakout season from Owens. Bridgemohan is one of the league's best inside defenders.**Last league title:** None.**Last time didn't make NCAA field:** 2000.**Site:** West Long Branch, N.J. **Home court:** Boyland Gym (2,500). **Website:** www.monmouth.edu**2. Wagner****National Rank: 196****Coach:** Dereck Whittenburg (27-29, 2 years).**Key players:** Dedrick Dye, G, 6-0/Jr. (12.8 ppg, 42.5 3%); Jermaine Hall, F, 6-5/Jr. (18.4 ppg, 5.8 rpg); Jeff Klauder, G, 6-4/Sr. (9.7 ppg, 38.6 3%); Courtney Pritchard, G, 6-0/So. (10.7 ppg, 4.5 apg); Hassan Wilkerson, G, 6-4/Sr. (5.6 ppg).**Outlook:** In Hall, Dye and Klauder, Wagner returns the nucleus of a club that led the NEC in offense (82.5 ppg), assists (17.3) and steals (10.1) last season and delivered the program's first winning season in seven years. The team hopes Corey Underwood, a 6-9 transfer who played two years ago at St. Francis (N.Y.), 6-9 sophomore Nigel

Wyatte and 6-10 freshman Kevin Martin will provide effective interior play.

Last league title: None.**Last NCAA appearance:** None.**Site:** Staten Island, N.Y. **Home court:** Spiro Sports Center (2,100). **Website:** www.wagner.edu/athletics**3. Central Connecticut State****National Rank: 217****Coach:** Howie Dickenman (70-74, 5 years).**Key players:** Corsley Edwards, 6-9/Sr. (16.2 ppg, 7.9 rpg); Lee Guinn, G, 6-1/Sr. (9.8 ppg); Jonathan Popofski, G, 6-3/Fr.; Ron Robinson, F, 6-6/So. (7.6 ppg); Ricardo Scott, So., F, 6-4/So. (6.2 ppg).**Outlook:** After a 26-win season in 1999-2000, the Blue Devils fell back last year mainly because injuries slowed many players, including the starting backcourt of Dean Walker and Guinn. Now Edwards, Guinn and Robinson form the nucleus of a young team that features nine of 12 scholarship players with one year or less of D-I experience. Edwards is a superior low-post presence. Robinson averaged 7.4 points and 10.4 rebounds in his last 16 starts of the year. Guinn can be a deadly long-range shooter, and Popofski eventually might be as good a point guard as the Blue Devils have suited up.**Last league title:** 2000.**Last NCAA appearance:** 2000.**Site:** New Britain, Conn. **Home court:** Detrick Gym (3,200). **Website:** www.ccsu.edu/athletics**4. Maryland-Baltimore County****National Rank: 228****Coach:** Tom Sullivan (72-96, 6 years, 226-221, 16 years overall).**Key players:** Andrew Feeley, C, 6-9/Fr.; Will McClurkin, C, 6-9/So. (10.4 ppg, 6.4 rpg); Peter Mulligan, F, 6-5/So. (15.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg); Malik Wallace, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Justin Wilson, G, 6-0/Jr.

Tony Graham, Asbury Park (N.J.) Press

Preseason All-Conference team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Rahsaan Johnson, Monmouth	6-0	190	Sr.
G	Antawn Dobie, Long Island	6-0	165	Sr.
F	Jermaine Hall, Wagner	6-5	210	Jr.
C	Corsley Edwards, Central Conn.	6-9	270	Sr.
C	Melvin Whitaker, Mt. St. Mary's	6-10	245	Jr.

Player of the Year

Rahsaan Johnson, Monmouth

Newcomer of the Year

Jonathan Popofski, G, Central Connecticut State

Honor Roll**Best shooter:** Jeff Klauder, Wagner**Best rebounder:** Corsley Edwards, Central Connecticut**Best playmaker:** Rahsaan Johnson, Monmouth**Best defender:** Melvin Whitaker, Mount St. Mary's**Best dunker:** Jermaine Hall, Wagner**Most versatile:** Peter Mulligan, UMBC**Most flamboyant:** Rahsaan Johnson, Monmouth**Best NBA prospect:** Rahsaan Johnson, Monmouth

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
St. Francis (N.Y.)	16	4	18	11
Monmouth*	15	5	21	10
Maryland-Balt. Co.	13	7	18	11
Long Island	12	8	12	16
Wagner	11	9	16	13
Central Conn. State	11	9	14	14
Fairleigh Dickinson	10	10	13	15
St. Francis (Pa.)	9	11	9	18
Mount St. Mary's	7	13	7	21
Robert Morris	7	13	7	22
Sacred Heart	6	14	7	21
Quinnipiac	3	17	6	21

*Lost to Duke, 95-52, in NCAA East first round.

(6 ppg); Ron Yates, G, 6-5/So.

Outlook: Terence Ward, the school's fourth-leading 3-point shooter, and all-time leading rebounder

Kennedy Okafor, are gone. But the Retrievers already had a handle on the future with the arrival of all-NEC newcomers Mulligan, McClurkin and Yates. Mulligan's 450 points were a new UMBC single-season record for a freshman. Wallace likely will become UMBC's latest impact newcomer, and the 260-pound Feeley will be a force inside.

Last league title: 1999.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** RAC Arena (4,000).

Website: www.umbc.edu/retrievers

5. Long Island

National Rank: 240

Coach: Ray Martin (30-52, 3 years).

Key players: JaJa Bey, F, 6-7/Jr. (10.4 ppg); Antawn Dobie, G, 6-0/Sr. (16.9 ppg, 2.1 spg); Dawan Gary, F, 6-6/Jr. (5.6 ppg, 4.4 rpg); LaForest Knox, G, 5-11/So. (4.4 ppg); Maurice Yearwood, G, 6-0/So. (11.2 ppg, 45.4 FG%, 75.7 FT%).

Outlook: Sparked by Dobie, who became eligible in January, LIU went on an 8-1 run from January 20 through February 15. With Yearwood, Bay and Gary back as well, the Blackbirds hope to regain that momentum. LIU will miss No. 2 scorer Ray Rivera (14.5 ppg), but help should be provided by 6-7 forward Raymond Edwards, who sat out last year for academic reasons.

Last league title: 1998.

Last NCAA appearance: 1997.

Site: Brooklyn, N.Y. **Home court:** Schwartz Athletic Center (1,000). **Website:** www.liu.edu

6. St. Francis, N.Y.

National Rank: 250

Coach: Ron Ganulin (127-152, 10 years; 154-175, 12 years overall).

Key players: Jonathan Burge, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Omar Hatcher, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Damien Herard, F, 6-6/Fr.; Jason Morgan, G, 6-4/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 37.2 %); Karl Sanders, G, 5-9/Sr.; Clifford Strong, F, 6-7/Sr. (14.5 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 54.8 FG%).

Outlook: The Terriers had a 20-point lead against Monmouth and were 13 minutes away from their first NCAA Tournament berth when it all fell apart in the conference tournament title game. From that team, they lost four starting seniors, including NEC scoring leader Steven Howard, but they appear to have reloaded well. Strong and Morgan played a key role last year, and Burge, Hatcher and Herard are highly touted recruits.

Last league title: 2001.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Brooklyn Heights, N.Y. **Home court:** Pope P.E. Center (1,250). **Website:** www.stfranciscollege.edu

7. Fairleigh Dickinson

National Rank: 261

Coach: Tom Green (302-216, 18 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Lionel Bomayako, F, 6-4/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 39 %); James Felton, C, 6-10/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 45.6 FG%); Matt Hammond, F, 6-8/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 48.5 FG%); Mensah Peterson, G, 6-2/So.; Marcus Whitaker, G, 5-9/So.

Outlook: After a collegiate career with stops at St. John's, Florida State and St. Peter's, this is Felton's last chance to shine. He played in just seven games last season but showed ability. FDU should be formidable and athletic up front. It doesn't know whether Whitaker or Peterson will be able to fill the

Schedules

Central Conn.

N16-17 Mohegan Cla.
N29-30 Phoenix Cla.
D3 St. Francis (N.Y.)
D6 at Mt. St. Mary's
D8 at Md.-Balt. County
D12 at Long Island
D15 at Massachusetts
D22 Loyola (Md.)
D30 at Providence
J10 Sacred Heart
J12 Wagner
J16 at Quinnipiac
J19 Md.-Balt. County
J23 Monmouth
J26 Quinnipiac
J28 at Sacred Heart
F2 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F4 at Robert Morris
F7 Fairleigh Dickinson
F9 at Monmouth
F14 at Wagner
F16 Long Island
F20 at Fair. Dickinson
F23 St. Francis (Pa.)
F25 Robert Morris

Fair. Dickinson

N25 at American
N29 Wagner
D1 Sacred Heart
D8 at Hartford
D11 Seton Hall
D15 at Towson
D22 Delaware State
D29 at Kansas State
J3 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J5 at Long Island
J10 Md.-Balt. County
J12 Mount St. Mary's
J16 at Sacred Heart
J19 Robert Morris
J23 at Quinnipiac
J26 at Mt. St. Mary's
J28 at Md.-Balt. County
F2 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F4 Monmouth
F7 at Cent. Conn.
F9 Quinnipiac
F14 at Robert Morris
F16 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F20 Cent. Conn.
F23 Long Island
F25 at Monmouth

Long Island

N17 Colgate
N26 Manhattan
N29 at Quinnipiac
D5 Yale
D8 at Xavier
D12 Central Conn.
D16 at DePaul
D27-28 Fla. Inter. Cla.
J3 Monmouth
J5 Fairleigh Dickinson
J10 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J12 at Robert Morris

J16 at Md.-Balt. County
J19 Mount St. Mary's
J23 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J26 St. Francis (Pa.)
J28 Robert Morris
F2 at Monmouth
F4 Wagner
F7 Sacred Heart
F9 at Wagner
F14 Md.-Balt. County
F16 at Cent. Conn.
F20 at Sacred Heart
F23 at Fair. Dickinson
F25 St. Francis (N.Y.)

Md.-Balt. County

N17 Battle of Balt.
N29 at St. Francis (Pa.)
D1 at Robert Morris
D6 Quinnipiac
D8 Central Conn.
D11 at Bucknell
D15 at Rutgers
D22 Towson State
D28-29 Cable Car Cl.
J10 at Fair. Dickinson
J12 at Monmouth
J16 Long Island
J19 at Central Conn.
J23 at Mt. St. Mary's
J26 Monmouth
J28 Fairleigh Dickinson
F2 at Sacred Heart
F4 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F7 St. Francis (Pa.)
F9 Robert Morris
F14 at Long Island
F16 Wagner
F20 Mount St. Mary's
F23 Wagner
F25 Sacred Heart

Monmouth

N17 Rider
N23-25 Hawaii Pac. Cl.
N29 at Seton Hall
D1 Wagner
D8 at Princeton
D11 at Maryland
D14 at St. Peter's
D16 Sacred Heart
D29 Gonzaga
J3 at Long Island
J5 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J10 Mount St. Mary's
J12 Md.-Balt. County
J16 at Wagner
J19 St. Francis (Pa.)
J23 at Central Conn.
J26 at Md.-Balt. County
J28 at Mt. St. Mary's
F2 Long Island
F4 at Fair. Dickinson
F7 at Quinnipiac
F9 Central Conn.
F14 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F16 at Robert Morris
F20 Quinnipiac
F23 St. Francis (N.Y.)

F25 Fairleigh Dickinson
Mt. St. Mary's
N17 at Virginia Tech
N29 at Robert Morris
D1 at St. Francis (Pa.)
D6 Central Conn. St.
D8 Quinnipiac
D15 Loyola
D17 Butler
D21 at California
D22 at San Jose State
D30 at Navy
J2 Bucknell
J10 at Monmouth
J12 at Fair. Dickinson
J16 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J19 at Long Island
J23 Md.-Balt. County
J26 Fairleigh Dickinson
J28 Monmouth
F2 at Wagner
F4 at Sacred Heart
F7 Robert Morris
F9 St. Francis (Pa.)
F14 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F16 at Quinnipiac
F20 at Md.-Balt. County
F23 Sacred Heart
F25 Wagner

Quinnipiac

N20 at Army
N24 Albany
N29 Long Island
D1 St. Francis (N.Y.)
D6 at Md.-Balt. County
D8 at Mt. St. Mary's
D18 Dartmouth
D21 at Connecticut
D29 at St. John's
J4 at Binghamton
J10 at Wagner
J12 Sacred Heart
J16 Cent. Conn.
J19 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J23 Fair. Dickinson
J26 at Cent. Conn.
J28 Wagner
F2 at Robert Morris
F4 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F7 Monmouth
F9 at Fair. Dickinson
F14 at Sacred Heart
F16 Mount St. Mary's
F20 at Monmouth
F23 Robert Morris
F25 St. Francis (Pa.)

Robert Morris

N20 at Pittsburgh
N23-25 RMC Shootout
N29 Mount St. Mary's
D1 Md.-Balt. County
D5 Mo.-Kansas City
D15 at West Virginia
D19 at Youngstown St.
D23 Albany
D29 at Purdue
J3 at Sacred Heart

J5 at Wagner
J10 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J12 Long Island
J16 St. Francis (Pa.)
J19 at Fair. Dickinson
J23 Sacred Heart
J26 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J28 at Long Island
F2 Quinnipiac
F4 Central Conn.
F7 at Mt. St. Mary's
F9 at Md.-Balt. County
F14 Fairleigh Dickinson
F16 Monmouth
F20 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F23 at Quinnipiac
F25 at Central Conn.

Sacred Heart

N19 Stony Brook
N24 at Baylor
N28 at Yale
D1 at Fair. Dickinson
D5 Vermont
D8 Maine
D16 at Monmouth
D19 at Providence
D21 at Harvard
J3 Robert Morris
J5 St. Francis (Pa.)
J10 at Cent. Conn.
J12 at Quinnipiac
J16 Fairleigh Dickinson
J19 Wagner
J23 at Robert Morris
J26 at Wagner
J28 Central Conn.
F2 Md.-Balt. County
F4 Mount St. Mary's
F7 at Long Island
F9 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F14 Quinnipiac
F16 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F20 Long Island
F23 at Mt. St. Mary's
F25 at Md.-Balt. County

St. Francis (N.Y.)

N16 Lehigh
N21 St. Peter's
N24 Howard
D1 at Quinnipiac
D3 at Cent. Conn.
D11 at Fairfield
D20 at St. John's
D29 at Pittsburgh
J3 Fairleigh Dickinson
J5 Monmouth
J10 at Robert Morris
J12 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J16 at Mt. St. Mary's
J19 Quinnipiac
J23 Long Island
J26 Robert Morris
J28 St. Francis (Pa.)
F2 at Fair. Dickinson
F4 Md.-Balt. County
F7 at Wagner
F9 Sacred Heart

F14 Mount St. Mary's
F16 at Sacred Heart
F20 Wagner
F21 Binghamton
F23 at Monmouth
F25 at Long Island
St. Francis (Pa.)
N17 Wright State
N20 American
N24 Bucknell
N29 Md.-Balt. County
D1 Mount St. Mary's
D5 at Pittsburgh
D15 at Howard
D20 at Wake Forest
D30 at Miami (Fla.)
J3 at Wagner
J5 at Sacred Heart
J10 Long Island
J12 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J16 at Robert Morris
J19 at Monmouth
J23 Wagner
J26 at Long Island
J28 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F2 Central Conn.
F4 Quinnipiac
F7 at Md.-Balt. County
F9 at Mt. St. Mary's
F14 Monmouth
F16 Fair. Dickinson
F20 Robert Morris
F23 at Central Conn.
F25 at Quinnipiac

Wagner

N16 at Virginia
N20 at Lehigh
N24 at Brown
N29 at Fair. Dickinson
D1 at Monmouth
D4 Iona
D8 at Rutgers
D22 Va. Common.
D29 at American
J3 St. Francis (Pa.)
J5 Robert Morris
J10 Quinnipiac
J12 at Cent. Conn.
J16 Monmouth
J19 at Sacred Heart
J23 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J26 Sacred Heart
J28 at Quinnipiac
F2 Mount St. Mary's
F4 at Long Island
F7 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F9 Long Island
F14 Central Conn.
F16 Md.-Balt. County
F20 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F23 at Md.-Balt. County
F25 at Mt. St. Mary's

hole at point left by Jarvis Mitchell, who was second in scoring on the team last season (11.6 ppg).

Last league title: 1991 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1998.

Site: Teaneck, N.J. **Home court:** Rothman Center (5,000). **Website:** www.fdu.edu

8. Sacred Heart

National Rank: 279

Coach: Dave Bike (384-291, 23 years).

Key players: Chris Assel, G, 6-1, So., Andrew Hunter, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg); Justin James, F, 6-6/So. (5.5 ppg); Mading Mading, C,

7-2/So.; Tim Welch, C, 6-10/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 6.6 rpg); Omar Wellington, G, 5-10/So. (5.7 ppg).

Outlook: After winning just 10 games in their first two D-I seasons, the Pioneers might be ready for a move up the NEC ladder. They went 7-11 in their last 18 games, including a 70-66 upset of regular-season champ St. Francis (N.Y.). Wellington might be one of the league's surprises. Mading is an unknown quantity, but 7-footers are rare in the NEC and usually are effective on defense.

Last league title: 1989 NECC (D-II).

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Fairfield, Conn. **Home court:** Pitt Center (2,100). **Website:** www.sacredheart.edu/athletics

(Northeast continued)

9. Mount St. Mary's**National Rank: 286****Coach:** Jim Phelan (816-484, 47 years, 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).**Key players:** Atangana, G, 6-6/So. (10 ppg, 7.9 rpg); Jerry Lloyd, G, 5-11/Sr. (9 ppg); Esmond Marvay, G, 6-1/Sr.; Keith Price, G, 6-5/So. (9.6 ppg); Angel Rivera, F, 6-8/Jr. (7.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg); Pat Melvin Whitaker, C, 6-10/Jr. (12.8 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 2.7 bpg).**Outlook:** The Mount used 17 starting lineups last season, and after waiting all year for Whitaker's return from an ankle injury, it went 4-7 with him and missed the NEC tournament. His presence for an entire season could make a big difference, especially on defense. Atangana had a strong rookie season, and Lloyd is dangerous from long range. If the Mount improves on last year's 39 percent shooting, its record should improve as well.**Last league title:** 1996.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1999.**Site:** Emmittsville, Md. **Home court:** Knott Arena (3,196). **Website:** www.mountathletics.com**10. Robert Morris****National Rank: 287****Coach:** Mark Schmidt (1st year).**Key players:** Maurice Carter, G, 5-11/Fr.; Eric Casey-Ford, G, 6-5/Sr. (6.7 ppg); Wesley Fluellen, F,

6-5/Sr. (16.2 ppg); Ricky Richburg, G, 5-10/Sr. (7.1 ppg); Matt Smith, C, 6-9/Sr. (7.5 ppg); Aaron Thomas, F, 6-7/So. (9 ppg, 39.3%).

Outlook: Fluellen, an all-NEC second-team pick, reached double figures in scoring in 20 of his last 22 games. He not only provides quickness in the post, he gives Schmidt, the Colonials' third head coach in the last three seasons, an immediate go-to player. The team returns four starters from a club that, though it missed the NEC tournament for the first time since 1991, showed progress by winning three of its last six. The team needs Carter to have an immediate impact at point guard.**Last league title:** 1992.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1992.**Site:** Moon Township, Pa. **Home court:** Sewall Center (3,056). **Website:** www.robert-morris.edu**11. Quinnipiac****National Rank: 309****Coach:** Joe DeSantis (42-92, 5 years).**Key players:** Jeremy Bishop, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Jared Grasso, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 39.3%); Kareem Lee, G, 6-1/Sr.; Kason Mims, G, 6-3/So. (7.5 ppg); Bill Romano, C, 6-8/Sr. (10 ppg, 5.2 rpg).**Outlook:** After an 18-win season two years ago, the Braves plummeted last season. Unable to perform down the stretch, they lost eight games decided by

six points or fewer. DeSantis is banking on four-year starters Grasso and Romano, along with Mims, to settle things down. But the team still faces many questions, including point guard and interior depth.

Last league title: None.**Last NCAA appearance:** None.**Site:** Hamden, Conn. **Home court:** Kahn Court (1,500). **Website:** www.quinnipiacathletics.com**12. St. Francis (Pa.)****National Rank: 314****Coach:** Bobby Jones (19-36, 2 years).**Key players:** Pete Fox, F, 6-5/Jr. (7.4 ppg, 43.8 3%); Darshan Luckey, G, 6-4/Fr.; Bryan Martin, F, 6-6/Sr.; Reiner Mougol, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 4.5 rpg); Dan Swoger, G, 5-10/Jr. (5.4 ppg).**Outlook:** The Red Flash has had one winning season (1997-98) since 1991. It's unlikely the team will buck that trend this season. It will look to push the ball more and seek transition baskets and open 3s. Fox led the NEC in 3-point shooting last year, and Mougol averaged 15 points in his last nine games. St. Francis is counting on immediate help at guard from Luckey and freshman Rodney Gibson.**Last league title:** 1991.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1991.**Site:** Loretto, Pa. **Home court:** Stokes Athletic Center (2,500). **Website:** www.francis.edu

PATRIOT

1. Holy Cross**National Rank: 141****Coach:** Ralph Willard (32-26, 2 years; 176-150 overall, 11 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).**Key players:** Jave Meade, G, 6-1/So. (7.3 ppg, 37.5 3%, 1.7 spg); Ryan Serravallo, G, 6-0/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 39.2 3%, 78.9 FT%); Tim Szatko, F, 6-8/Jr. (11.4 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 75.7 FT%); Patrick Whearty, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 53.2 FG%, 35.3 3%); Brian Wilson, G, 6-2/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 35.9 3%, 82.6 FT%).**Outlook:** Without 7-1 Josh Sankes clogging the middle and wingman Juan Pegues locking up the opponents' best forwards, life will be different this winter for reigning league MVP Szatko. The 6-8 junior will be asked to do more, but Willard expects Szatko to be up to the challenge. Defensively, guards Meade and Wilson are without peers in the league and will allow the Crusaders to extend their air-tight zone. The keys to Holy Cross repeating as champion will be 6-9 center Whearty bouncing back from a subpar season and the development of freshman swingmen Greg Kinsey and John Hurley.**Last league title:** 2001.**Last time didn't make NCAA field:** 2000.**Site:** Worcester, Mass. **Home court:** Hart Center (3,600). **Website:** www.holycross.edu**2. Navy****National Rank: 156****Coach:** Don DeVoe (161-98, 9 years; 489-326 overall, 28 years; 5-10 NCAA Tournament record).**Key players:** Kyle Barker, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.2 ppg,

35.8 3%, 88.5 FT%); Francis Ebong, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (5.3 ppg, 4 rpg, 48.3 FG%); Jason Jeanpierre, G, 6-3/Jr. (5.7 ppg); Jehiel Lewis, G, 6-3/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 46.2 FG%, 1 spg); Demond Shepard, G, 6-1/Sr. (5 ppg, 76.0 FT%).

Outlook: DeVoe will field one of his smallest but also one of his most athletic squads at Navy. The Midshipmen will be guard-oriented with a bevy of interchangeable parts. Lewis has the potential to lead the league in scoring. Barker is tough to defend because he can shoot the 3-pointer or post up smaller defenders. Ebong's rebounding will be the catalyst to the Mids' up-tempo attack. DeVoe, as always, will experiment early with personnel in preparation for the league's stretch run in February.**Last league title:** 1998.**Last NCAA appearance:** 1998.**Site:** Annapolis, Md. **Home court:** Alumni Hall (5,710). **Website:** www.navysports.com**3. Lehigh****National Rank: 229****Coach:** Sal Montesana (38-102, 5 years; 156-207 overall, 14 years).**Key players:** Matt Crawford, C, 6-10/Jr. (7.5 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 47.3 FG%, 2.2 bpg); Alan Goff, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (8.4 ppg, 78.4 FT%); Alex Jensen, G, 6-2/So. (7.1 ppg, 81.3 FT%); Matt Logie, G, 6-5/Jr. (14.1 ppg, 41.1 3%, 91.7 FT%); Bobby Mbom, C, 6-5/Sr. (6.9 ppg, 61.7 FG%).**Outlook:** Is this the season when the Mountain Hawks finally break the shackles of mediocrity? They showed signs a year ago, and all the primary

Corky Blake, Express-Times (Easton, Pa.)

Preseason All-Conference team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Bryan Bailey, Bucknell	6-0	160	Sr.
G	Chris Spatola, Army	6-1	163	Sr.
F	Tim Szatko, Holy Cross	6-8	220	Jr.
F	Pat Campolieti, Colgate	6-6	220	Sr.
C	Patrick Doctor, American	6-9	230	Sr.

Player of the Year

Bryan Bailey, Bucknell

Newcomer of the Year

Greg Kinsey, G, Holy Cross

Honor Roll**Best shooter:** Matt Logie, Lehigh**Best rebounder:** Boakai Lalugba, Bucknell**Best playmaker:** Jave Meade, Holy Cross**Best defender:** Reggie Guy, Lafayette**Best leaper:** Boakai Lalugba, Bucknell**Most versatile:** Kyle Barker, Navy**Most flamboyant:** Bryan Bailey, Bucknell**Best NBA prospect:** Patrick Doctor, American

STANDINGS

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Holy Cross*	10	2	22	8
Navy	9	3	19	12
Lehigh	6	6	13	16
Colgate	6	6	13	15
Bucknell	4	8	14	15
Lafayette	4	8	12	16
Army	3	9	9	19

*Lost to Kentucky, 72-68, in NCAA East first round.

players, including sharpshooter Logie and shot-blocking center Crawford, return. The Hawks' grit

comes from blue-collar guards Goff and Jensen, who sacrificed scoring to play point guard. Montesana says he would prefer to use Jensen at shooting guard but might keep him at the point for stability. Lehigh could get instant help from 6-8 freshman forward Eric Heil.

Last league title: 1988 (East Coast).

Last NCAA appearance: 1988.

Site: Bethlehem, Pa. **Home court:** Stabler Arena (5,600). **Website:** www.lehigh.edu

4. Colgate

National Rank: 241

Coach: Emmett Davis (40-45, 3 years).

Key players: Howard Blue, F, 6-7/So. (9.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 45.2 FG%, 40.0 3%, 1.2 spg); Pat Campolieta, F, 6-6/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 47.7 FG%, 1.5 spg); Dave Hardy, G, 6-2/Jr. (9.8 ppg, 80.7 FT%, 1.2 spg); Mark Linebaugh, G, 6-2/So. (10.1 ppg, 37.0 3%, 88.2 FT%); Tim Sullivan, G, 6-5/Jr. (10.8 ppg, 49.5 FG%, 43.9 3%, 83.1 FT%).

Outlook: The Red Raiders, who produced NBA center Adonal Foyle, again lack size. But Davis says he doesn't think that will be a hindrance because his team returns all five starters, including 1,000-point scorer Campolieta and rookie of the year Linebaugh, a 6-2 guard who has added 20 pounds of muscle. Sullivan, at 6-5, is difficult to defend on the perimeter. If Blue can be consistent, he will have a major influence on the team's success.

Last league title: 1996 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.

Site: Hamilton, N.Y. **Home court:** Cotterell Court (3,100). **Website:** http://athletics.colgate.edu

5. Bucknell

National Rank: 262

Coach: Pat Flannery (108-90, 7 years; 209-133 overall, 12 years).

Key players: Bryan Bailey, G, 6-0/Sr. (17.7 ppg, 45.7 FG%, 43.6 3%, 1.7 spg); Dan Blankenship, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.1 ppg, 1.2 spg); Boakai Lalugba, F, 6-6/Jr.

(14.5 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 54.0 FG%, 1.3 spg); Brian Werner, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.3 spg).

Outlook: The Bison isn't accustomed to sub-.500 seasons, and with everyone back, barring injury, should return to its winning ways. Flannery sees no harm in Bailey again averaging about 18 ppg, though the cast around him is capable of contributing more offensively. Werner can take opposing centers away from the basket, which should open the lane for the slashing Lalugba. Watch out, Flannery warns, for the return of 6-5 guard Matt Quinn, who missed last year with an injury. He will be a vital outside threat.

Last league title: 1989.

Last NCAA appearance: 1989.

Site: Lewisburg, Pa. **Home court:** Davis Gymnasium (2,300).

Website: www.bucknellbison.com

6. American

National Rank: 280

Coach: Jeff Jones (7-20, 1 year; 153-124 overall, 9 years; 6-5 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Vladimir Buscaglia, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.3 ppg); Patrick Doctor, C/F, 6-9/Sr. (17.7 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 48.2 FG%); Keith Gray, F, 6-8/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 55.5 FG%); Steven Miles, G, 6-4/Jr. (transfer/Coastal Carolina); Glenn Stokes, G, 5-9/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Eagles were a team wandering in the wilderness last winter in their final season in the Colonial Athletic Association, and their record reflected it. Jones wants his players to improve on the basics. Doctor, who withdrew his name from the NBA draft, isn't exempt if he wants to reach his potential, Jones says. Transfers will infuse American's talent level and homegrown junior college guard Stokes will be the on-court leader. Former Big South Rookie of the Year Miles sat out last year after coming in from Coastal Carolina. By season's end, he could be the Eagles' best player.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Washington, D.C. **Home court:** Bender Arena (4,500). **Website:** www.aueagles.com

7. Lafayette

National Rank: 285

Coach: Fran O'Hanlon (95-77, 6 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Brian Burke, G, 6-5/Sr. (14 ppg, 36.5 3%, 87.2 FT%, 4.9 apg, 1.1 spg); Justin DeBerry, G, 6-3/So. (5.8 ppg, 44.4 3%, 1.1 spg); Reggie Guy, G, 6-3/Sr. (4.5 ppg, 1.3 spg); Ben Saxton, G/F, 6-5/So. (6.4 ppg, 47.8 FG%, 36.2 3%); Rob Worthington, F, 6-6/Sr. (62.9 FG%).

Outlook: The Leopards need Burke to stay healthy after missing the bulk of last season with a punctured lung. No one in the league has more range on his jumper and is such a threat passing. Lafayette, with the loss of 7-0 Frank Barr, will be vulnerable inside. Drake transfer Andrew Pleick will offer immediate help at small forward. Don't be shocked if freshman Kenny Grant emerges at point guard.

Last league title: 2000.

Last NCAA appearance: 2000.

Site: Easton, Pa. **Home court:** Kirby Sports Center (3,500). **Website:** www.goleopards.com

8. Army

National Rank: 315

Coach: Pat Harris (30-80, 4 years).

Key players: Jonte Harrell, F, 6-6/Sr. (4.2 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 45.6 FG%); Dax Pearson, C/F, 6-6/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 52.8 FG%); Chris Spatola, G, 6-1/Sr. (18.5 ppg, 42.3 3%, 89.8 FT%); J.P. Spatola, G, 6-0/So. (7.8 ppg, 36.0 3%, 80.0 FT%); Charles Woodruff, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.8 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 57.9 FG%).

Outlook: The improved strength of the league is reflected by Army's position because the Cadets will be much better. Harris no longer must rely on freshmen and will be able to draw on the talents of seven seniors, including scoring machine Chris Spatola, who dropped 43 points on Lafayette, and the steady Woodruff. Pearson should be at 100 percent after returning from a Mormon mission. J.P. Spatola is the other half of Army's backcourt brother act and is a rising star.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: West Point, N.Y. **Home court:** Christl Arena (5,043). **Website:** www.goarmysports.com

American	Army	Bucknell	Colgate	Holy Cross	Lafayette	Lehigh	Navy
N17 at Maryland	N17 Coast Guard	N16-17 Mohegan Sun Ct.	N17 at Long Island	N20 Harvard	N17 at Albany	N20 Wagner	N16 at Rice
N20 at St. Francis (Pa.)	N20 Quinnipiac	N20 at Rider	N21 Northern Arizona	N23 at Manhattan	N21 at Penn State	N24 Hawaii	N18 at SMU
N24 Fair. Dickinson	N24 N.Y. Maritime	N24 at St. Francis (Pa.)	N25 Oral Roberts	N27 at Dartmouth	N24 at Miami	N27 at Columbia	N24 Air Force
N28 Col. of Charleston	N28 at Notre Dame	N26 Cornell	N27 at Syracuse	D1 Boston University	N27 St. Peter's	N30 at Dartmouth	N26 Ohio University
D1 Pennsylvania	D1 at Yale	D1 at Villanova	D1 at Cornell	D4 at UMass	N29 Marist	D2 at Vermont	N29 at The Citadel
D4 at Radford	D5 Columbia	D5 Albany	D3 Yale	D6 Brown	D1 at Columbia	D5 at Penn State	D1 at Davidson
D7 at N.C. A&T	D8 Binghamton	D11 Md.-Balt. County	D8 at Harvard	D16 at Boston College	D5 at Drexel	D8 New Hampshire	D16 Gettysburg
D10 at Howard	D11 at Albany	D22 at Penn State	D18 Hobart	D19-22 Rainbow Classic	D8 Cornell	D10 Swarthmore	D20-22 Pearl Harbor Cl.
D20 at Vanderbilt	D13 Stony Brook	D28 South Florida Trm.	D21 Dartmouth	D28-29 State Farm Cl.	D19 Scranton	D22 at Cornell	D28 Belmont
D22 at Florida State	D30 Marist	J2 at Mt. St. Mary's	D30 at Notre Dame	J2 Fordham	D21 at Princeton	D29 at Portland	D30 Mount St. Mary's
D29 Wagner	J2 at Brown	J5 at Canisius	J3 Bethany	J5 at Princeton	D30 Howard	D31 at Oregon State	J2 Coastal Carolina
J2 Liberty	J5 at Cornell	J9 Lafayette	J5 at New Hamp.	J9 Navy	J2 Rider	J5 Pennsylvania	J5 at Brown
J5 Fairfield	J7 at New Hamp.	J12 at Navy	J9 American	J12 at Lafayette	J9 at Bucknell	J9 at Army	J7 Wake Forest
J9 at Colgate	J9 Lehigh	J16 Army	J12 at Lehigh	J16 Colgate	J12 Holy Cross	J12 Colgate	J9 at Holy Cross
J12 Army	J12 at American	J19 at American	J16 at Holy Cross	J19 Navy	J16 at American	J16 at Navy	J12 Bucknell
J16 Lafayette	J16 at Bucknell	J23 Bucknell	J19 Navy	J23 at Lehigh	J19 at Army	J19 Holy Cross	J16 Lehigh
J19 Bucknell	J19 Lafayette	J26 at Colgate	J23 Bucknell	J26 at Army	J21 at Pennsylvania	J23 American	J19 at Colgate
J23 at Lehigh	J23 Holy Cross	J26 Lehigh	J26 at Lafayette	J26 American	J23 at Navy	J26 at Bucknell	J23 Lafayette
J26 at Holy Cross	J26 at Navy	J30 Holy Cross	J28 at Binghamton	J30 at Bucknell	J26 Colgate	J30 Lafayette	J26 Army
J30 Navy	J30 at Colgate	F2 at Lafayette	J30 Army	F2 at Navy	J30 at Lehigh	F2 Army	J30 at American
F2 Colgate	F2 at Lehigh	F6 Navy	F2 at American	F6 Lafayette	F2 Bucknell	F6 at Colgate	F2 Holy Cross
F6 at Army	F6 American	F9 at Army	F6 Lehigh	F9 at Colgate	F6 at Holy Cross	F9 Navy	F6 at Bucknell
F9 at Lafayette	F9 Bucknell	F13 American	F9 Holy Cross	F13 Lehigh	F9 American	F13 at Holy Cross	F9 at Lehigh
F13 at Bucknell	F13 at Lafayette	F16 Colgate	F13 at Navy	F16 Army	F13 Army	F16 at American	F13 Colgate
F16 Lehigh	F16 at Holy Cross	F20 at Holy Cross	F16 at Bucknell	F20 Bucknell	F16 Navy	F20 at Lafayette	F16 at Lafayette
F20 at Navy	F20 Colgate	F23 at Lehigh	F20 at Army	F23 at American	F20 Lehigh	F23 Bucknell	F20 American
F23 Holy Cross	F23 Navy		F23 Lafayette		F23 at Colgate		F23 at Army

INDEPENDENTS

Centenary

National Rank: 301

Coach: Kevin Johnson (18-37, 2 years).

Key players: Kevin Atamah, G, 6-0/So. (7.3 ppg, 2.5 apg); Michael Gale, G, 6-4/So. (8.2 ppg, 4.3 rpg); DeMario Hooper, G/F, 6-4/So. (1.2 ppg at Tulsa).

Outlook: The Gents have promising Hooper, who transferred from Tulsa when Bill Self left for Illinois. Unfortunately, the schedule doesn't figure to be very gentlemanly, with trips to Vanderbilt, Tulane, Baylor, Rice and Louisiana Tech.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Shreveport, La. **Home court:** Gold Dome (3,000). **Website:** www.centenary.edu/ath

Gardner-Webb

National Rank: NR

Coach: Rick Scruggs (103-67, 6 years; 281-181 overall, 15 years).

Key players: James Colwell, SG, 5-10/Sr. (13.1 ppg); Chas Criss, PG, 5-10/Sr. (7.9 ppg); Bruce Fields, F, 6-5/Sr. (9.5 ppg); Jamie Roller, F/C, 6-7/Sr. (5.5 ppg); Meshah Taylor, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: Gardner-Webb has one more provisional D-I season before it joins the Atlantic Sun Conference. The Runnin' Bulldogs return four starters, including three three-year starters, from last season's 22-10 team.

Site: Boiling Springs, N.C. **Home court:** Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center. (6,000).

Website: www.gardner-webb.edu

Lipscomb

National Rank: NR

Coach: Scott Sanderson (55-11, 2 years; 139-36 overall, 5 years).

Key players: Jeff Dancy, G, 6-0/Fr.; Albert Hacker, C, 6-10/So.; Jason Jackson, G, 6-4/Jr. (15.4 mpg); Ryan Roller, G, 5-11/Jr. (8.8 ppg, 44.8 3%); Kyle Stephens, F, 6-7/Sr. (4.2 ppg, 3.6 rpg).

Outlook: Lipscomb has five freshmen, a new arena and its first full D-I schedule. About the only thing old is Stephens, who has started every game in his col-

lege career. The team, which has two more seasons of D-I provisional status, returns two other starters in Roller and Jackson but lacks a proven scorer.

Site: Nashville. **Home court:** Allen Arena (5,028).

Website: www.lipscombsports.com

Morris Brown

National Rank: 321

Coach: Derek Thompson (1st season).

Key players: Anthony Adams, G, 6-3/Sr. (14.2 ppg); Akiem Claborn, F, 6-8/So. (6.4 ppg, 5.3 rpg); Rashad Davis, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Amien Hicks, F, 6-6/Jr. (8.9 ppg, 8 rpg); Jeffrey Singelton, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Jamal Walker, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (JC).

Outlook: The Wolverines return two of last season's three leading scorers from a team that finished 6-22. Adams leads a team that remains undersized and could be in for another rough go. The additions of three key JC players gives them some experience.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Atlanta. **Home court:** John H. Lewis (3,500).

Website: www.morrisbrown.edu

Savannah State

National Rank: 319

Coach: Jack Grant (4-21, 1 year).

Key players: Armand Burnett, F, 6-8/Fr.; Brian Fisher, C, 6-9/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 5.9 rpg); Toyian Williams, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 1.6 spg).

Outlook: The Tigers enter the D-I level with a loaded schedule that includes SMU, Iowa State and Fresno State. Leading the way are Fisher and Burnett, who form a solid, albeit thin, inside presence.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Savannah, Ga. **Home court:** Tiger Arena (5,000). **Website:** www.savstate.edu

Texas-Pan American

National Rank: 284

Coach: Bob Hoffman (24-33, 2 years; 355-128 overall, 13 years).

Key players: Mire Chatman, G, 6-2/Sr. (18 ppg, 43.5 3%, 2.7 spg); Derrick East, F, 6-8/Fr.; Terrell

STANDINGS

	Overall	
	W	L
Stony Brook%	17	11
Belmont#	13	15
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi*	14	14
Texas-Pan American	12	17
Centenary	8	19
Albany (N.Y.)%	6	22

%Now members of America East. #Now member of Atlantic Sun. *Provisional Division I member.

Hill, F, 6-7/Jr. (5.7 ppg, 5.8 rpg); Marcus Quinn, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (5.4 ppg).

Outlook: The Broncos lost two-time NCAA 3-point shooting champion Brian Merriweather and three other starters but have a solid frontcourt in Hill and Quinn. Chatman, who came off the bench last year but led the team in scoring, again must provide big points. Freshman East could help.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Edinburg, Texas. **Home court:** UTPA Field House (5,000). **Website:** www.panam.edu/athletics

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

National Rank: NR

Coach: Ronnie Arrow (27-27, 2 years, 140-121 overall, 9 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).

Key players: Thomas Bailey, F, 6-7/Fr. (Prop 48); Travis Bailey, G, 6-2/Fr. (Prop 48); Brian Evans, G, 6-0/So. (7.1 ppg); Brian Hamilton, F, 6-5/So. (3.7 ppg); Armond Wainwright, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 41 3%).

Outlook: This season's schedule features only two giants—Illinois and Texas. The lighter load should help a team that returns only one starter from last season's 14-14 squad and must turn over the roster after losing seven players, including two-time Independent POY Michael Hicks. The good news is the Bailey brothers will be eligible.

Site: Corpus Christi, Texas. **Home court:** Circle K Court (3,500). **Website:** www.tamucc.edu

Previews by Steve Walentik

Schedules

Centenary

N17 E. Texas Baptist
N20 at Tulane
N24 at Alabama
N27 LeTourneau
D1 Southern
D5 Stephen F. Austin
D8 at Vanderbilt
D15 at Louisiana Tech
D17 at Baylor
D21 at Rice
D28-29 Utah State Trn.
J3 Texas A&M
J7 Northwestern St.
J10 Gardner-Webb
J12 Texas A&M-CC
J16 Texas College
J24 at Lipscomb
J26 at Gardner-Webb
J30 Louisiana Tech
F2 Texas Pan Am.
F5 Lipscomb
F13 at N'western St.
F16 Arkansas Baptist

F21 at Texas-Pan Am.
F23 at Texas A&M-CC
Gardner-Webb
N17 St. Mary's (Md.)
N19 at Georgia So.
N21 Asbury
N24 at J. Madison
N29 Colorado State
D1 at Kansas State
D4 Georgia Southern
D8 Bluefield State
D15 Limestone
D18 at Va. Common.
D21 at South Ala.
D28-29 Poinsettia Cl.

J5 at Murray State
J10 at Centenary
J17 at Texas A&M-CC
J19 at Texas-Pan Am.
J23 at Appalachian St.
J26 Centenary
J29 Brevard
F2 Texas A&M-CC
F5 at Savannah St.
F9 at Lipscomb

F12 So. Wesleyan
F16 Texas-Pan Am.
F19 Savannah State
F23 Lipscomb
Lipscomb
N19 at UT-Martin
N21 at Morris Brown
N27 North Texas
D1 Cal Poly
D3 Butler
D6 Northern Arizona
D13 Reinhardt College
D17 at Sacramento St.
D19 at North Texas
D21 at Tulane
D28-29 Wis-G. Bay Trn.

J2 at Mississippi
J4 at Savannah St.
J7 Rochester Col.
J12 Northern Illinois
J14 at Tennessee St.
J17 at Texas-Pan Am.
J19 Savannah State
J21 Wis-Milwaukee
J24 Centenary

J31 Texas A&M-CC
F2 Ind./Purdue-FW
F5 at Centenary
F9 Gardner-Webb
F14 Texas-Pan Am.
F18 at Texas A&M-CC
F23 at Gardner-Webb
Morris Brown
N15-20 Paradise Trn.*
N21 Lipscomb
N24 at Tulsa
N28 at Mississippi
D4 at Boston College
D6 Denver
D8 Alabama State
D15 at So. Miss.
D22 at Alabama St.
D27 at Oregon
D31 at Iowa State
J2 at Marquette
J5 at Colorado St.
J7 at Denver
J9 at Colorado
J12 at Savannah St.
J14 Clark-Atlanta

J17 at Southern
J23 Alcorn State
J28 Southern
J30 Alabama A&M
F3 West. Kentucky
F11 Jacksonville St.
F13 at Clark-Atlanta
F18 at Jacksonville St.
F20 at Alabama A&M
F25 at Alcorn State
*at St. Thomas, Virgin Isl.
Savannah State
N16 at SMU
N20 at Florida State
N27 at Iowa State
D1 at Pittsburgh
D4 at Armstrong
D6 Georgia Southern
D8 at Jacksonville
D10 Armstrong
D18 at Weber State
D20 at Fresno State
D29 Jacksonville
J2 at Nebraska
J4 Lipscomb

J12 Morris Brown
J14 Alabama A&M
J16 Bethune-Cookman
J19 at Lipscomb
J24 Jacksonville St.
J26 Birm. Southern
J30 at Ga. Southern
F2 at Jacksonville St.
F5 Gardner-Webb
F9 at Morris Brown
F11 at Alabama A&M
F13 Texas A&M-CC
F19 at Gardner-Webb
F23 at Birm. Southern
F28 at Texas A&M-CC
Texas A&M-CC
N16 Sul Ross State
N25 SW Texas State
N29 at Loyola (Ill.)
D1 at Illinois
D5 at Texas
D8 at UTEP
D15 Lamar
D18 San Francisco

D21 Denver
D28-29 Islander Cl.
J3 at CS Sacramento
J5 at San Francisco
J8 San Diego State
J12 at Centenary
J14 at UM-Kans. City
J17 Gardner-Webb
J24 New Orleans
J26 at UT-Pan Am
J31 at Lipscomb
F2 at Gardner-Webb
F5 at Denver
F9 UT-Pan Am
F13 at Savannah St.
F18 Lipscomb
F23 Centenary
F28 Savannah State
Texas-Pan Am
N17 Sul Ross State
N19 SW Texas St.
N21 Texas College
N24 Texas Southern
N29 at Northern Iowa

D1 at Minnesota
D5 at Portland
D7 at Washington St.
D13 Lamar
D15 Middle Tenn.
D18-23 San Juan S.O.
D27 at Rice
D29 LeTourneau Uni.
D30 Schreiner Col.
J2 at Texas
J8 at SW Texas St.
J10 Air Force
J17 Lipscomb
J19 Gardner-Webb
J23 at Wright State
J26 Texas A&M-CC
F2 at Centenary
F4 at Mid. Tenn.
F9 at Texas A&M-CC
F11 New Mexico St.
F14 at Lipscomb
F16 at Gardner-Webb
F25 Centenary

D1 at Minnesota
D5 at Portland
D7 at Washington St.
D13 Lamar
D15 Middle Tenn.
D18-23 San Juan S.O.
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F11 New Mexico St.
F14 at Lipscomb
F16 at Gardner-Webb
F25 Centenary

2001 Division I coaching changes

School	Old coach (notes)	New coach (background)
Butler	Thad Matta (to Xavier)	Todd Lickliter (Butler asst.)
Cal Poly	Jeff Schneider (resigned)	Kevin Bromley (interim; Cal Poly asst.)
Denver	Martin Fletcher (dismissed)	Terry Carroll (Iowa St. asst.)
Drexel	Steve Seymour (dismissed)	Bruiser Flint (Massachusetts)
Duquesne	Darelle Porter (resigned)	Danny Nee (Robert Morris)
Florida A&M	Mickey Clayton (dismissed)	Mike Gillespie (Tallahassee CC)
George Washington	Tom Penders (resigned)	Carl Hobbs (Connecticut asst.)
Hofstra	Jay Wright (to Villanova)	Tom Pecora (Hofstra asst.)
Idaho	David Farrar (dismissed)	Leonard Perry (Iowa St. asst.)
Kent St.	Gary Waters (to Rutgers)	Stan Heath (Michigan St. asst.)
La Salle	Speedy Morris (dismissed)	Billy Hahn (Maryland asst.)
Louisville	Denny Crum (retired)	Rick Pitino (x-Kentucky)
Massachusetts	Bruiser Flint (resigned; to Drexel)	Steve Lappas (Villanova)
McNeese St.	Ron Everhart (to Northeastern)	Tic Price (McNeese St. asst.)
Michigan	Brian Ellerbe (dismissed)	Tommy Amaker (Seton Hall)
UMKC	Dean Demopoulos (to Seattle Supersonics asst.)	Rich Zvosec (x-St. Francis, N.Y.)
Morgan St.	Chris Fuller (dismissed)	Butch Beard (x-Howard)
UNLV	Max Good (interim)	Charles Spoonhour (x-St. Louis)
New Orleans	Joey Stiebing (dismissed)	Monte Towe (Santa Fe (Fla.) CC)
North Texas	Vic Trilli (dismissed)	Johnny Jones (Alabama asst.)
Northeastern	Rudy Keeling (dismissed)	Ron Everhart (McNeese St.)
Northern Ill.	Andy Greer (interim)	Rob Judson (Illinois asst.)
Northern Iowa	Sam Weaver (dismissed)	Greg McDermott (North Dakota St.)
Ohio	Larry Hunter (dismissed; to NC State asst.)	Tim O'Shea (Boston College asst.)
Old Dominion	Jeff Capel (resigned)	Blaine Taylor (Stanford asst.; x-Montana)
Pepperdine	Jan van Breda Kolff (to St. Bonaventure)	Paul Westphal (x-George Mason)
Portland	Rob Chavez (dismissed)	Michael Holton (x-UCLA asst.)
Rhode Island	Jerry DeGregorio (resigned)	Jim Baron (St. Bonaventure)
Robert Morris	Danny Nee (to Duquesne)	Mark Schmidt (Xavier asst.)
Rutgers	Kevin Bannon (dismissed)	Gary Waters (Kent St.)
St. Bonaventure	Jim Baron (to Rhode Island)	Jan van Breda Kolff (Pepperdine)
St. Mary's (Cal.)	David Bollwinkel (resigned)	Randy Bennett (St. Louis asst.)
Seton Hall	Tommy Amaker (to Michigan)	Louie Orr (Siena)
Siena	Louie Orr (to Seton Hall)	Rob Lanier (Texas asst.)
South Carolina	Eddie Fogler (resigned)	Dave Odom (Wake Forest)
Southern U.	Tommy Green (reassigned)	Ben Jobe (x-Southern U.)
Stetson	Murray Arnold (resigned)	Derek Waugh (interim; Stetson asst.)
Tennessee	Jerry Green (resigned)	Buzz Peterson (Tulsa)
Texas Southern	Robert Moreland (dismissed)	Ronnie Courtney (H.S. in Texas)
Texas Tech	James Dickey (dismissed)	Bob Knight (x-Indiana)
Towson	Mike Jakulski (dismissed)	Michael Hunt (Georgia asst.)
Tulsa	Buzz Peterson (to Tennessee)	John Phillips (Tulsa asst.)
Villanova	Steve Lappas (to Massachusetts)	Jay Wright (Hofstra)
Wake Forest	Dave Odom (to South Carolina)	Skip Prosser (Xavier)
Wisconsin	Brad Soderberg (interim; to St. Louis asst.)	Bo Ryan (Wis.-Milwaukee)
Wis.-Milwaukee	Bo Ryan (to Wisconsin)	Bruce Pearl (Southern Indiana)
Xavier	Skip Prosser (to Wake Forest)	Thad Matta (Butler)

Compiled by Gary K. Johnson, NCAA.

x-previous college coaching position

Conference tournament schedule

League	Dates	Site
America East	March 2-3, 9	Boston%
Atlantic Coast	March 7-10	Charlotte
Atlantic Sun#	Feb. 28-March 2	Orlando
Atlantic 10	March 6-9	Philadelphia
Big East	March 6-9	New York
Big Sky	March 7-9	TBD*
Big South	Feb. 28-March 2	Roanoke, Va.
Big Ten	March 7-10	Indianapolis
Big 12	March 7-10	Kansas City
Big West	March 7-9	Anaheim
Colonial	March 1-4	Richmond, Va.
Conference USA	March 6-9	Cincinnati
Horizon+	March 1-5	Cleveland
Metro Atlantic	March 1-4	Albany, N.Y.
Mid-American	March 4, 7-9	Cleveland@
Mid-Continent	March 2-5	Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Mid-Eastern	March 4-9	Richmond, Va.
Missouri Valley	March 1-4	St. Louis
Mountain West	March 7-9	Las Vegas
Northeast	March 1-2, 4	New York%
Ohio Valley	Feb. 26, March 1-2	Louisville@
Pacific-10	March 7-9	Los Angeles
Patriot	March 2-3, 8	Upper Marlboro, Md.%
Southeastern	March 7-10	Atlanta
Southern	Feb. 28-March 3	Charleston, S.C.
Southland	March 4-9	Campus sites
Southwestern	March 7-9	Birmingham, Ala.
Sun Belt	Feb. 28-March 5	New Orleans
West Coast	March 2-4	San Diego
Western Athletic	March 5-9	Tulsa

#Formerly the Trans America Athletic Conference

+Formerly the Midwestern Collegiate Conference

*At site of regular-season champion

%Final at home court of highest remaining seed

@First round at campus sites.

Prime prospects

THE SPORTING NEWS asked four top analysts to provide lists of the top high school players in the nation. We assigned each player a number based on each analyst's ranking and came up with the master lists, beginning with the top senior prospects. The numbers that follow each player's name, hometown and high school are each analyst's ranking.

Key: DT—Dave Telep is the director of basketball recruiting for The Citadel Group and provides information at BlueChipHoops.com. BO—Brick Oettinger is a Prepstars recruiting analyst. VC—Van Coleman is a Future Stars recruiting analyst. CM—Chris Monter is the editor of Monter Draft News and College Basketball News and provides information at collegebasketballnews.com.

Rk. Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	City/High school	DT	BO	VC	CM
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1. Amare Stoudemire C 6-10/240 Orlando/Cypress Creek 1 1 1 1

Amid a storm of media scrutiny, Stoudemire persevered on the court this summer. Sparkling moments at Nike Camp ensured his status as the nation's top player. His power dunking routine, incredible knack for blocking shots and presence in the lane are tremendous. The search is on for someone in this class who can guard him.

2. Carmelo Anthony SF 6-7/190 Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Aca. 2 3 3 2

All spring and summer, Anthony continued to improve, and at the Big Time in Las Vegas, he took center stage. As a scorer, he might be without peer in this class. Syracuse now has a player who will help it contend for the Big East title immediately.

3. Lenny Cooke SF 6-6/205 Old Tappan, N.J./N. Valley Reg. 4 4 2 3

He's a gifted athlete with a competitive streak. As a rebounder, he's the best at his position. Put the ball in his hands, and he can handle running the break and finding guys in traffic. He's an intense defender and will play above the rim at every chance.

4. Raymond Felton PG 6-2/180 Latta, S.C./Latta 3 2 5 5

The strongest of all the point guards, Felton separated himself from a talented pack by capturing MVP honors at the Atlanta Basketball Classic and wreaking havoc at the ABCD Camp. His forte is making plays down the stretch. He usually comes out on top.

5. Shavlik Randolph PF 6-10/215 Raleigh, N.C./Broughton 9 7 4 4

Though he didn't leave the summer as the top prospect, Randolph displayed the kind of skills rarely found in a big man. His touch out to 3-point range is impressive, and he's one of the most skilled players in the class. Add some strength and weight, and he will be outstanding in college.

6. Shelden Williams PF 6-9/230 Midwest City, Okla./Midwest City 5 5 13 6

He's a warrior. At first glance, his rugged frame might trick you into thinking he's strictly an inside presence, but that's not the case. Williams can step out and hit jumpers while not sacrificing his inside presence. He's one of the best shot blockers in the class.

7. Paul Davis PF 6-10/225 Rochester, Mich./Rochester 6 6 11 7

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo has the complete package in Davis. He runs the floor extremely well for his size and has shown he can be dominant on the blocks. Other big men seemingly pretend they can play on the perimeter; Davis has proved it.

8. Rashad McCants SG/SF 6-4/200 New Hamp., N.H./New Hamp. Sch. 7 9 7 12

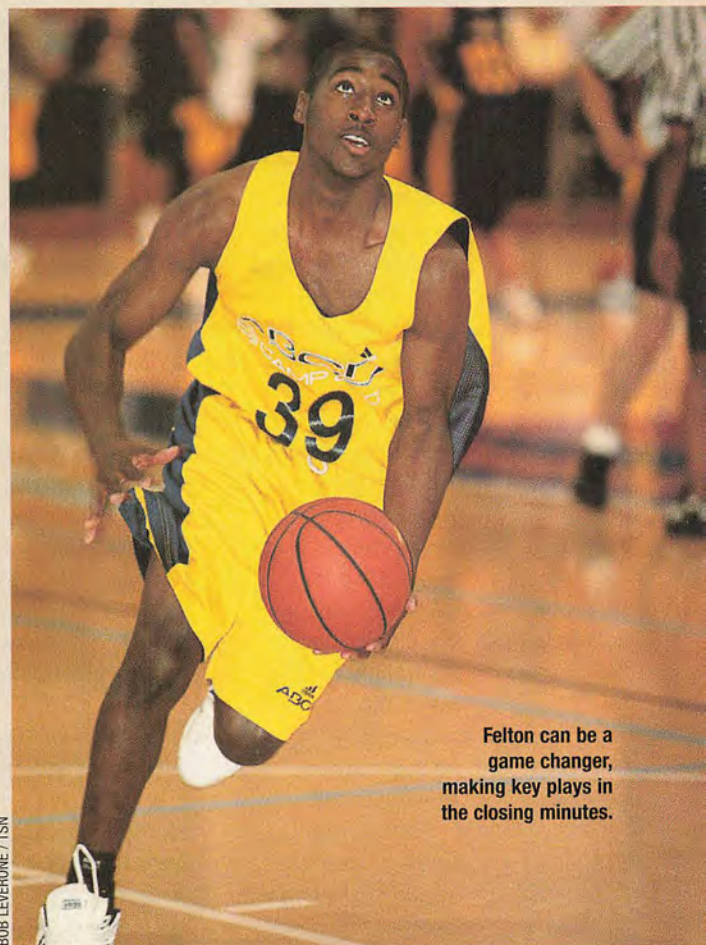
He's one of the toughest and most intense kids in the nation. Everywhere he went, McCants made his presence felt. His game has developed to the point where he's an unfair matchup for defenders. He'll head to the blocks to post up, can hit 3s and blocks a ton of shots.

9. Anthony Roberson PG/SG 6-1/180 Saginaw, Mich./Saginaw 10 11 8 8

It would be tough for Florida to draw up a better recruit for its system than Roberson. He's from that cookie-cutter mold of scoring playmakers. Having proved himself a stellar shooter over the summer, Roberson worked on his game off the drive, and though he's not the strongest guy, he's tough when it comes to finishing plays.

10. Bracey Wright SG 6-4/185 The Colony, Texas/The Colony 8 10 14 11

He improved his stock over the summer as he stepped up his game and helped his traveling team win two prominent July events. Always considered one of the best shooters in the class, Wright worked on his game off the drive and has an advanced array of moves he uses to free himself for jumpers.



Felton can be a game changer, making key plays in the closing minutes.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Ibrahim (below) is among the top 5 centers in his class. Cooke is a good ballhandler and has a competitive fire.

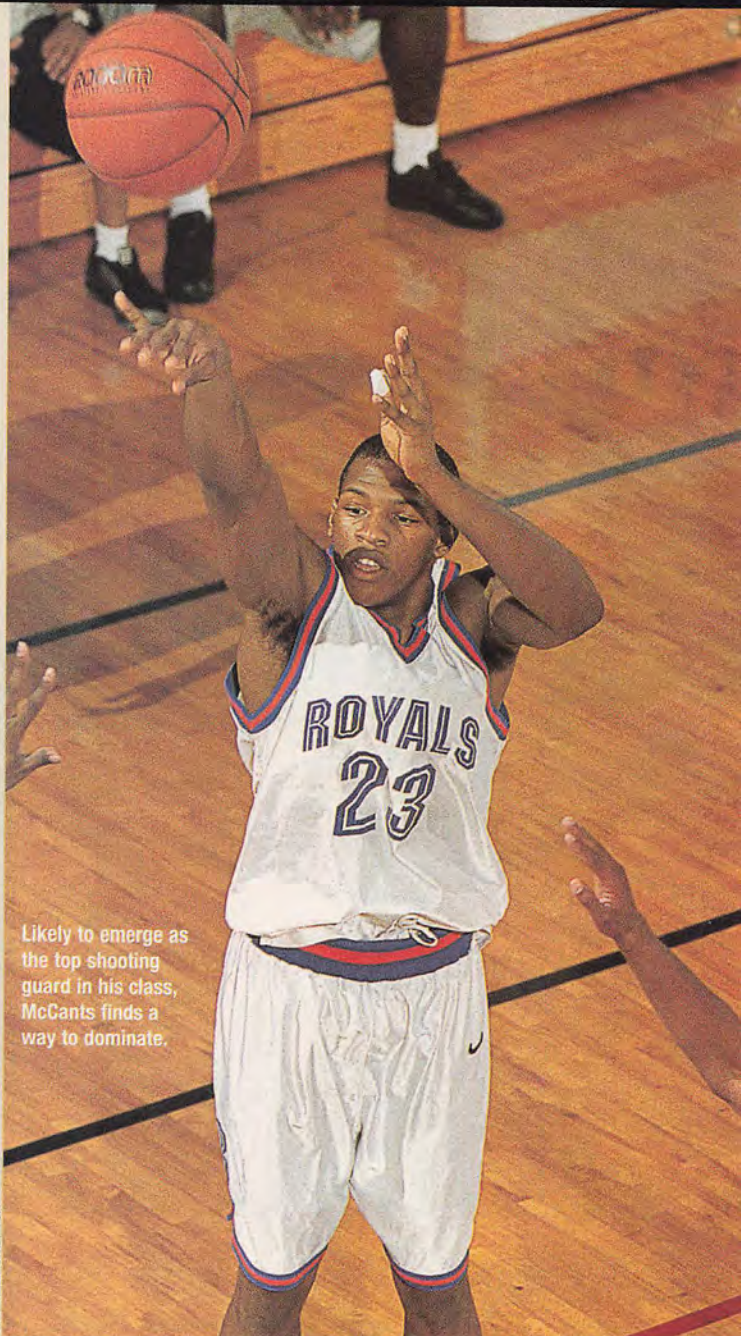


JOHN DUNN FOR TSN



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Rk. Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	City/High school	DT	BO	VC	CM
11. Sean May	PF	6-9/265	Bloomington, Ind./Bloomington North	12	13	9	14
12. J.J. Redick	SG	6-4/190	Roanoke, Va./Cave Spring	14	12	10	13
13. Chris Bosh	PF	6-10/210	Dallas/Lincoln	11	16	6	18
14. Evan Burns	SF	6-7/200	Los Angeles/Fairfax	13	17	9	12
15. Sani Ibrahim	C	6-10/220	Winchendon, Mass./Winchendon Sch.	15	18	18	10
14. DeAngelo Collins	PF	6-9/230	Inglewood, Calif./Inglewood	21	8	23	17
17. Jason Fraser	C	6-9/210	Amityville, N.Y./Amityville	20	15	21	16
18. Torin Francis	C	6-10/220	Marion, Mass./Tabor Academy	16	14	15	29
19. Dee Brown	PG	5-10/170	Maywood, Ill./Proviso East	18	19	17	28
20. Daniel Horton	PG	6-2/180	Cedar Hill, Texas/Cedar Hill	24	24	33	15
21. Sean Dockery	PG	6-2/170	Chicago/Julian	30	31	20	20
22. Michael Thompson	C	6-10/245	New Lenox, Ill./Providence Catholic	17	22	31	33
23. Alexander Johnson	PF	6-10/225	Albany, Ga./Dougherty	26	27	28	27
24. Chris Rodgers	PG/SG	6-4/190	Portland, Ore./Wilson	22	30	36	24
25. Hassan Adams	SG/SF	6-4/190	Los Angeles/Westchester	31	25	37	19
26. Kelenna Azubuike	SF	6-6/205	Tulsa, Okla./Victory Christian	25	34	25	32
27. Antonio Lawrence	SG	6-4/190	Jacksonville/Jackson	33	29	16	38
28. John Gilchrist	PG	6-1/170	Virginia Beach, Va./Salem	41	32	26	30
29. Brad Buckman	PF	6-8/210	Austin, Texas/Westlake	19	21	64	26
30. Matt Walsh	SF	6-7/185	Fort Washington, Pa./Germantown Aca.	39	28	43	22
31. Rashad Anderson	SF/SG	6-5/190	Lakeland, Fla./Kathleen	27	20	35	56
32. Kennedy Winston	SF	6-6/190	Pritchard, Ala./Blount	23	64	29	23
33. Maurice Ager	SG	6-4/175	Detroit/Crockett Tech	28	62	22	40
34. Mario Boggan	C/PF	6-8/310	Chatham, Va./Hargrave Military Aca.	34	38	49	34
35. Jimmy McKinney	SG	6-3/180	St. Louis/Vashon	52	36	44	25
36. Elijah Ingram	PG	6-0/170	Jersey City, N.J./St. Anthony's	42	39	57	21
37. Bryan Hopkins	PG	5-10/170	Dallas/Lincoln	36	35	52	44
38. Matt Trannon	SF	6-6/200	Flint, Mich./Northern	48	59	24	36
39. Marshall Strickland	SG/PG	6-2/185	Sykesville, Md./South Carroll	32	84	19	35
40. Jarrett Jack	PG	6-3/180	Worcester, Mass./Worcester Aca.	45	26	48	55
41. Allen Ray	SG	6-2/185	Bronx, N.Y./St. Raymond's	44	33	66	31
42. Lester Abram	SF	6-6/190	Pontiac, Mich./Northern	38	55	40	43
43. Antoine Wright	SF	6-7/195	Groton, Mass./Lawrence Academy	29	23	75	50
44. Gerry McNamara	PG	6-1/175	Scranton, Pa./Bishop Hannan	50	52	38	37
45. Jeff Horner	PG	6-2/180	Mason City, Iowa/Mason City	54	53	42	41
46. Curtis Sumpter	SF	6-7/210	Brooklyn/Bishop Loughlin	58	54	30	48
47. Andre Iguodala	SF	6-6/185	Springfield, Ill./Lanphier	35	45	45	67
48. DeAngelo Alexander	SG/SF	6-5/200	Midwest City, Okla./Midwest City	56	47	53	39
49. Greg Brunner	PF	6-7/220	Charles City, Iowa/Charles City	74	41	32	49
50. Deron Williams	PG	6-2/185	The Colony, Texas/The Colony	46	70	34	46
51. Francisco Garcia	SF	6-6/180	Cheshire, Conn./Cheshire Academy	37	58	27	82
52. Denham Brown	SF/SG	6-5/210	Toronto/Bathurst Heights	53	40	68	51
53. Chadd Moore	SG/PG	6-2/180	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Aca.	62	50	59	42
54. Travis Garrison	PF	6-9/215	Hyattsville, Md./DeMatha Catholic	59	48	58	54
55. Keith Butler	C	7-0/230	Winchendon, Mass./Winchendon	55	46	56	63
56. J.R. Morris	SF	6-5/195	Creedmoor, N.C./Christian Faith Center	40	78	55	47
57. Brandon Roy	SG	6-4/180	Seattle/Garfield	47	42	76	66
58. Taquan Dean	SG/PG	6-2/175	Neptune, N.J./Neptune	51	56	65	59
59. Eric Williams	C	6-9/280	Wake Forest, N.C./Rolesville	43	49	46	—
60. Kevin Bookout	PF	6-8/250	Stroud, Okla./Stroud	57	66	73	52
61. Derrick Byars	SF	6-6/185	Memphis/Ridgeway	65	63	62	58
62. Greg Brown	SG	6-3/180	Milwaukee/Vincent	66	68	47	81
63. Yusuf Baker	PF	6-8/220	Orlando/Maynard Evans	77	67	50	74
64. Ike Diogu	C	6-9/240	Garland, Texas/Garland	89	37	41	—
65. Steve Novak	SF	6-8/205	Brown Deer, Wis./Brown Deer	49	60	78	85
66. Trent Strickland	SF	6-5/180	Chatham, Va./Hargrave Military Aca.	63	72	—	45
67. Julius Lamprey	C	6-11/290	Oklahoma City/Northeast	61	61	85	78
68. Justin Gray	PG	6-1/170	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Aca.	75	80	61	75
69. Jeremy Hunt	SG	6-3/175	Memphis/Craigmont	60	44	96	92
70. Chris McCray	SG	6-4/180	Capitol Heights, Md./Fairmont Heights	68	65	—	61
71. Adam Haluska	SF	6-5/180	Carroll, Iowa/Community	78	71	54	96
72. Randy Foye	SG/PG	6-3/195	Newark, N.J./East Side	69	90	89	53
73. Cortez Davis	SF	6-7/200	Laurinburg, N.C./Laurinburg Prep	64	76	63	—
74. Bobby Jones	SF	6-5/195	Compton, Calif./Dominguez	95	57	90	64
75. Nik Caner-Medley	SF	6-7/190	Portland, Maine/Deering	97	79	39	93
76. Alou Kane	C	6-9/230	Dyke, Va./Blue Ridge Academy	81	69	72	88
77. Josh Rhodes	SF	6-6/190	Santa Clara, Calif./Santa Clara	83	51	77	—
78. Rick Cornett	PF	6-8/215	Homewood, Ill./Homewood Christian	85	100	71	62
79. Maurice Wade	SG	6-3/185	Milwaukee/Vincent	—	43	—	73
80. Derek Burditt	SF	6-7/190	Marrero, La./John Ehret	—	—	60	60
81. Ricardo Billings	SF	6-4/185	Detroit/Rogers Academy	80	—	83	65
82. Cameron Bennerman	SG	6-4/195	Chatham, Va./Hargrave Military Aca.	88	82	—	69



Likely to emerge as the top shooting guard in his class, McCants finds a way to dominate.

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Rk. Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	City/High school	DT	BO	VC	CM
83. Marcus White	PF	6-8/215	Chicago/Whitney Young	94	—	95	57
84. Delco Rowley	PF	6-8/220	Indianapolis/Arlington	87	—	69	91
85. John Winchester	SG/PG	6-4/180	Durham, N.C./Mt. Zion Christian Aca.	—	77	74	97
86. Eric Hicks	SF/PF	6-6/225	Greensboro, N.C./Dudley	70	98	80	—
87. Curtis Withers	PF	6-7/235	Charlotte/West Charlotte	90	74	—	86
88. Matt Kiefer	PF	6-9/215	Evansville, Ind./Mater Dei	84	—	67	—
89. James Augustine	PF	6-9/215	New Lenox, Ill./Lincoln Way	71	81	—	—
90. Martin Iti	C	7-0/220	Villa Park, Calif./Villa Park	—	—	51	—
91. C.J. Watson	PG	6-1/165	Las Vegas/Bishop Gorman	79	92	—	87
92. Marquis Kately	SF	6-5/200	San Francisco/Riordan	82	91	86	—
93. Dedrick Finn	PG	5-11/165	Newburgh, Ind./Castle	73	89	100	—
94. Matt Haryasz	C	6-10/210	Page, Ariz./Page	86	88	—	90
95. Wes Wilkinson	PF	6-9/205	Grand Island, Neb./Grand Island	—	83	81	—
96. Michael Ford	PG	6-1/175	Macon, Ga./Northeast	—	73	92	—
97. Almany Thiero	PF/C	6-8/230	Durham, N.C./Mount Zion	76	—	91	—
98. Vincent Grier	SG	6-4/175	Raleigh, N.C./Bonner Academy	72	96	—	—
99. Robert Hite	SG	6-2/185	Cincinnati/Winton Woods	99	87	—	83
100. Elliott Poole	SF/SG	6-6/215	Chicago/Farragut	—	—	84	84

Thomas was an Illinois Class AA All-Tournament second-team selection as a freshman.



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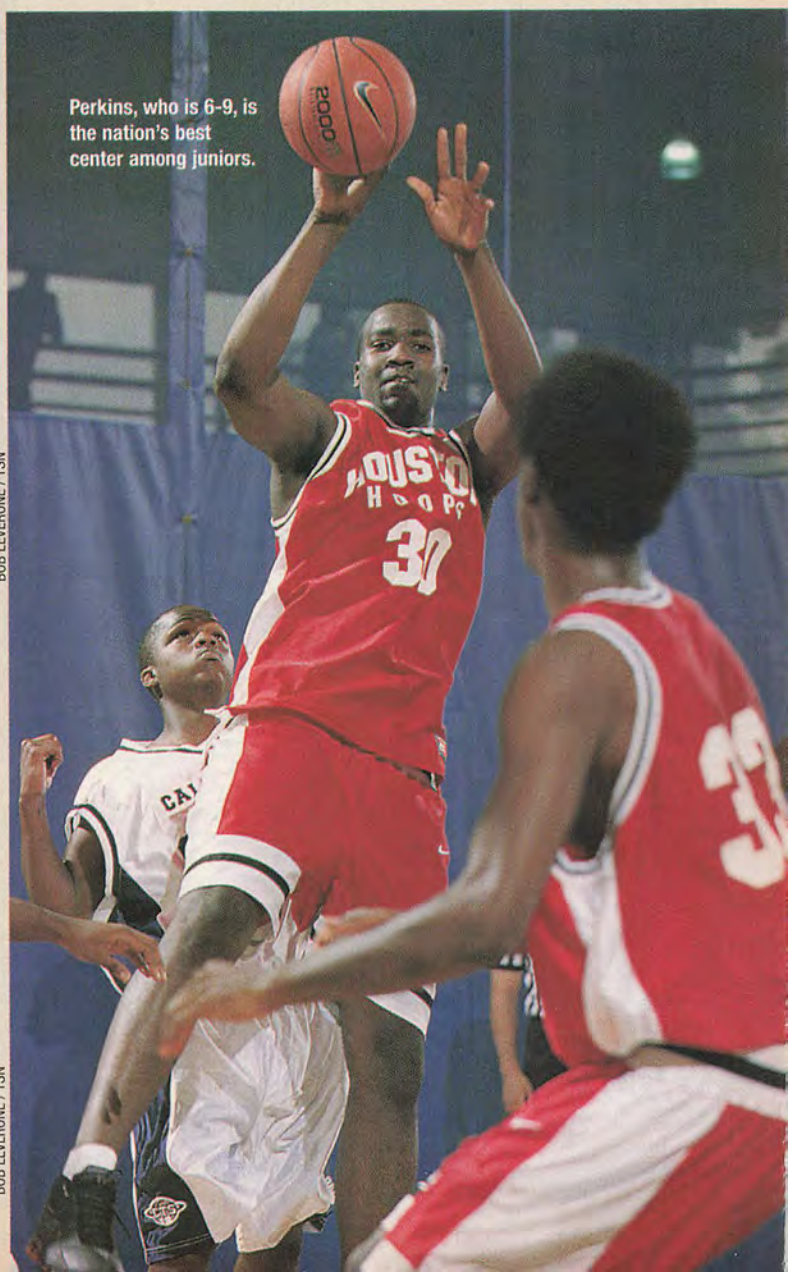
Top sophomores

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	City/High school
1.	Sebastian Telfair	PG	5-11/165	Brooklyn/Lincoln
2.	Al Jefferson	PF	6-8/210	Prentiss, Miss./Prentiss
3.	Mike Williams	PF	6-8/215	Camden, Ala./Wilcox Central
4.	Roy Hilbert	C	6-11/225	North Bethesda, Md./Georgetown Prep
5.	Darius Washington	PG	5-11/160	Orlando/Edgewater
6.	Brian Johnson	PF	6-8/210	Arlington, Va./Bishop O'Connell
7.	James On Curry	PG	6-1/150	Mebane, N.C./Eastern Alamance
8.	Randolph Morris	PF	6-9/240	Fairburn, Ga./Landmark
9.	Josh Smith	PF	6-7/195	Powder Springs, Ga./McEachern
10.	D.J. White	PF	6-7/200	Tuscaloosa, Ala./Hillcrest
11.	Kalen Grimes	C	6-8/260	Florissant, Mo./Hazelwood Central
12.	Andre Allen	PG	5-9/175	Memphis/Booker T. Washington
13.	Jason Horton	PG	6-0/160	Cedar Hill, Texas/Cedar Hill
14.	Jason Thomas	SG/SG	6-2/165	Aurora, Ill./West Aurora
15.	Brandon Rush	SF	6-5/185	Kansas City, Mo./Kansas City Career Aca.
16.	Robert Vaden	SG/SF	6-4/185	Indianapolis/Cathedral
17.	Robert Swift	C	6-11/215	Bakersfield, Calif./Garces
18.	Cornelius Ingram	SF	6-5/190	Hawthorne, Fla./Hawthorne
19.	Marquis Cooke	PG	6-2/175	Suffolk, Va./Nanesmond River
20.	ReSean Dickey	C	6-9/230	Bennettsville, S.C./Marlboro County

Top juniors

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	City/High school
1.	LeBron James	SF	6-7/200	Akron, Ohio/St. Vincent-St. Mary
2.	Kendrick Perkins	C	6-9/245	Beaumont, Texas/Ozen
3.	Leon Powe	PF	6-7/200	Oakland/Oakland Tech
4.	Lodrick Stewart	SG	6-3/180	Seattle/Rainier Beach
5.	Travis Outlaw	SF	6-8/190	Starkville, Miss./Starkville
6.	Charlie Villanueva	PF	6-9/215	Blairtown, N.J./Blair Aca.
7.	Jackie Butler	C	6-10/240	McComb, Miss./McComb
8.	Rodrick Stewart	SG	6-3/180	Seattle/Rainier Beach
9.	Darryl Watkins	C	6-11/225	Paterson, N.J./Catholic
10.	Ndudi Ebi	SF/PF	6-9/195	Houston/Westbury Christian
11.	Shannon Brown	SG	6-3/185	Maywood, Ill./Proviso East
12.	Olu Famutimi	SF	6-5/180	Flint, Mich./Northwestern
13.	Shagari Alleyne	C	7-2/200	Manhattan, N.Y./Rice
14.	Michael Jones	SG	6-4/180	Dorchester, Mass./Thayer Aca.
15.	David Padgett	PF	6-9/210	Reno, Nev./Reno
16.	Trevor Ariza	PF	6-8/200	Los Angeles/Westchester
17.	Taurean Minor	PG	5-11/175	Houston/Booker T. Washington
18.	Richard McBride	SG	6-3/195	Springfield, Ill./Lanphier
19.	Deon Harris	WG	6-4/175	Detroit/Redford
20.	Loul Deng	SF	6-7/215	Blairtown, N.J./Blair Academy

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Perkins, who is 6-9, is the nation's best center among juniors.

Where last season's top JC players signed

By Rick Ball, Ballplayers JC report

Point guards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Marcus Hatten	6-3/185	Tallahassee (Fla.)	St. John's
2.	Marcus Banks	6-1/195	Dixie (Utah)	UNLV
3.	Taron Barker	6-0/190	Odessa (Texas)	Cincinnati
4.	Donta Richardson	6-2/170	Sheridan (Wyo.)	Wyoming
5.	Eric Bush	5-10/180	Barton Country (Kan.)	UAB
6.	Clarence Baker	5-9/170	Kankakee (Ill.)	Mercer
7.	Raymond Abellard	5-10	Pensacola (Fla.)	Central Florida
8.	Chauncey Leslie	6-2/170	Indian Hills (Iowa)	Iowa
9.	Petie Spaulding	6-0	Moberly (Mo.)	Chattanooga
10.	Brennon Clemmons	6-2/190	Olney Central (Ill.)	Nebraska

Shooting guards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Terrell Ross	6-4/190	Allegany (Md.)	Texas
2.	Darren Tarver	6-3/185	Wabash Valley (Ill.)	George Mason
3.	Antonio Falu	6-5/195	San Jacinto (Texas)	Valparaiso
4.	Rashaad Hooks	6-3/175	West Valley (Calif.)	Sacramento St.
5.	Curtis Millage	6-2/180	L.A. Southwest (Calif.)	Arizona St.
6.	Gilson DeJesus	6-5/215	Trinidad St. (Colo.)	Kansas St.
7.	Michael Wilder	6-2/185	Chipola (Fla.)	Louisiana Tech
8.	Jibrahn Ike	6-2/190	Southeastern (Iowa)	Arkansas-Little Rock
9.	John Humphrey	6-2/210	Louisburg (N.C.)	Middle Tennessee St.
10.	Tony Darden	6-4/200	Dodge City (Kan.)	Long Beach St.

Small forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Ebi Ere	6-5/215	Barton County (Kan.)	Oklahoma
2.	Curtis Nash	6-6/190	Hill (Texas)	Charlotte
3.	Darmetris Kilgore	6-5/202	Tyler (Texas)	Purdue
4.	Jason Detrick	6-5/210	SMS-West Plains, Mo.	Oklahoma
5.	Blandon Ferguson	6-3/220	Southern Idaho	Illinois
6.	Larry House	6-4/205	Colby (Kan.)	Creighton
7.	Janerio Spurlock	6-6/215	Chipola (Fla.)	Kansas St.
8.	Kasib Powell	6-7/200	Butler County (Kan.)	Texas Tech
9.	Carlton "Oudie" Baker	6-6/185	Barton County (Kan.)	San Jose St.
10.	LucArthur Vebobe	6-9/200	Foothill (Calif.)	Hawaii

Power forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Pervis Pasco	6-9/218	Pensacola (Fla.)	Kansas St.
2.	Chris Massie	6-8/262	Oxnard (Calif.)	Memphis
3.	Sam Hoskin	6-9/260	Schoolcraft (Mich.)	DePaul
4.	Jamal Brown	6-7/230	Seward County (Kan.)	Texas Christian
5.	Greg Brittan	6-6/225	Central Florida	South Florida
6.	Antoniae Roberson	6-5/230	San Jose (Calif.)	UAB
7.	Mike Hayes	6-8/215	Cowley County (Kan.)	Connecticut
8.	Pawel Storzynski	6-8/215	Dodge City (Kan.)	Texas Tech
9.	Robert Johnson	6-8/235	Santa Rosa (Calif.)	Oregon
10.	Mike Mackell	6-9/230	Porterville (Calif.)	San Diego St.

Centers

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college	Four-year school
1.	Moustapha Diagne	7-0/235	Trinity Valley (Texas)	New Mexico
2.	Chris Jackson	6-9/230	Garden City (Kan.)	New Mexico State
3.	Kenny Brown	6-9/250	Iowa Western	Saint Louis
4.	Rodney Bias	6-9/235	Shelton St. (Ala.)	Alabama
5.	Michal Ignerski	6-9/230	Eastern Okla. St.	Mississippi St.
6.	Sylbrin Robinson	6-9/215	Odessa, Texas	Northeastern
7.	Trevor Harvey	6-11/230	Marshalltown (Iowa)	Florida St.
8.	Uche Okafor	6-11/245	Southern Idaho	Missouri
9.	Hiram Fuller	6-9/240	Wabash Valley (Ill.)	Fresno St.
10.	Shawnson Johnson	6-9/240	Lee (Texas)	LSU

Rating the JC transfers

Best NBA prospect (still in college): Pervis Pasco (Pensacola), Kansas State

Best passer 6-5 or over: Curtis Nash (Hill), Charlotte

Best passer under 6-5: Eric Bush (Barton County), UAB

Best ballhandler: Taron Barker (Odessa), Cincinnati

Best scorer: Marcus Banks (Dixie), UNLV

Most creative scorer: Ebi Ere (Barton County), Oklahoma

Top 2001-02 JC sophomores

By Rick Ball, Ballplayers JC report

Point guards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Tim Barnes	6-0/170	SE Illinois
2.	Janovey Weatherspoon	6-2/175	Odessa (Texas)
3.	Brandon Brooks	6-0/175	Indian Hills (Iowa)
4.	Frank Richards	6-1/180	Olney Central (Ill.)
5.	Chris Craig	6-1/180	Arizona Western
6.	Danny Allen	6-0/170	San Jacinto (Texas)
7.	Ricky Clemons	5-11/185	Southern Idaho
8.	Antonio Rambo	5-10/165	SW Illinois
9.	Bryan Turner	6-1/180	Mineral Area (Mo.)
10.	Ade Edwards	5-7/155	Bronx Monroe (N.Y.)

Shooting guards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Antwain Barbour	6-4/185	Wabash Valley (Ill.)
2.	Nate Johnson	6-1/185	Penn Valley (Mo.)
3.	Les Norman	6-2/195	Long Beach City (Calif.)
4.	Derrick Tarver	6-4/210	San Francisco
5.	Jerome Harper	6-5/190	Indian Hills (Iowa)
6.	Tony Bobbitt	6-4/190	Southern Idaho
7.	Junior Matias	6-2/195	Southeastern (Iowa)
8.	Chris Young	6-1/185	Daytona Beach (Fla.)
9.	Andre Joseph	6-3/180	Lee (Texas)
10.	Brandon Sims	6-5/195	Johnson Co. (Kan.)

Small forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Qyntel Woods	6-8/215	NE Mississippi
2.	Roy Smiley	6-4/205	Southeastern (Iowa)
3.	Derrick Stewart	6-5/195	Columbia (Calif.)
4.	Terrance Thomas	6-6/215	Lon Morris (Texas)
5.	Delonte Holland	6-8/205	Vincennes (Ind.)
6.	John Thomas	6-5/210	Daytona Beach (Fla.)
7.	Jamal Hill	6-5/185	San Jose City (Calif.)
8.	Barry Thompson	6-7/205	Odessa (Texas)
9.	Eli Warren	6-5/225	Pensacola (Fla.)
10.	Rodney Blackstock	6-5/195	Howard (Texas)

Power forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	Jaime Lloreda	6-8/225	Dixie State (Utah)
2.	Fred Adjiwanou	6-9/225	Foothill (Calif.)
3.	Kei Madison	6-9/220	Okaloosa Walton (Fla.)
4.	Jamar Smith	6-9/235	Allegany (Md.)
5.	Sett Scott	6-10/225	Utah Valley State
6.	Cameron Echols	6-7/215	Kennedy King (Ill.)
7.	O.J. Sumter	6-7/230	Palm Beach (Fla.)
8.	Kendall Darte	6-9/220	Vincennes (Ind.)
9.	Eulis Baez	6-7/220	Southeastern (Iowa)
10.	Anthony Myles	6-8/230	Olney Central (Ill.)

Centers

Rk.	Name	Ht./Wt.	Junior college
1.	J.K. Edwards	6-8/245	Indian Hills (Iowa)
2.	Rafael Araujo	6-10/260	Arizona Western
3.	John Toombs	6-10/230	Lincoln Trail (Ill.)
4.	Jeff Graves	6-9/245	Iowa Western
5.	Randy Holbrook	6-10/230	Odessa (Texas)
6.	Geoffrey Brown	6-10/225	Sheridan/Wyo.
7.	Gabe Kennedy	6-9/235	Bevill St. (Ala.)
8.	Derek Ahern	6-11/260	Palm Beach (Fla.)
9.	Jackson Vroman	6-10/215	Snow (Utah)
10.	Chris Alexander	7-1/235	Indian Hills, Iowa

For more information on *Ballplayers JC Report*, write P.O. Box 17172, Pensacola, FL 32522. Or go to www.ballstars.net.

Best field-goal shooter: Chris Jackson (Garden City), New Mexico State

Best 3-point shooter: Chauncey Leslie (Indian Hills), Iowa

Best rebounder: Rodney Bias (Shelton State), Alabama

Best shot blocker: Uche Okafor (Southern Idaho), Missouri

Best dunker: Larry House (Colby), Creighton

Best defender: Brennon Clemmons (Olney Central), Nebraska

Biggest sleeper: Ken Johnson (Penn Valley), SE Missouri State

Biggest steal: Antonio Falu (San Jacinto), Valparaiso

Most overrated: Cheyenne Gadson (Westchester), Oklahoma State

2001-02 in-season events

Date	Tournament (site)	Teams
November 8-9	Coaches vs. Cancer IKON Classic (New York)	Arizona vs. Maryland, Florida vs. Temple
November 12-23	Preseason NIT	November 12 games: Fordham at DePaul, Maine at Arkansas, Manhattan at Syracuse, UNC Wilmington at Wake Forest. November 13 games: Central Connecticut State at Oklahoma, Detroit at Michigan State, Montana State at Fresno State, Wyoming at Southern California. (First and second rounds at campus sites; semifinals and finals will be played Nov. 21 and 23 in New York.)
November 13-14	NABC Guardians Classic (Tuscaloosa, Ala.) NABC Guardians Classic (Iowa City, Iowa) NABC Guardians Classic (Columbia, Mo.) NABC Guardians Classic (Memphis)	Alabama* vs. Mississippi Valley State, Loyola Marymount vs. Samford. Iowa* vs. Maryland-Eastern Shore, Boston University vs. New Orleans. Missouri* vs. Tennessee-Martin, Air Force vs. Yale. Memphis* vs. Wofford, Old Dominion vs. Cal St. Sacramento The semifinals and finals will be played Nov. 20-21 in Kansas City, Mo.
November 14-16	BCA Invitational (Raleigh, N.C.)	NC State* vs. Prairie View A&M, Rutgers vs. East Carolina, Northwestern vs. Virginia Commonwealth, San Jose State vs. Fairleigh Dickinson.
November 15-16	BCA Classic (Berkeley, Calif.) NABC Classic (Lexington, Ky.)	California* vs. Princeton, Eastern Washington vs. St. Joseph's. Kentucky* vs. Western Kentucky, George Washington vs. Marshall.
November 15-18	Top of the World Classic (Fairbanks, Alaska)	Alaska-Fairbanks* vs. Washington, Bowling Green vs. Mississippi, Butler vs. Radford, Delaware vs. Wichita State.
November 16-17	Florida International Tournament (Miami) Hawaii Nike Classic (Hawaii) Mohegan Sun Classic (New Britain, Conn.) Pepsi Marist Classic (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.) Red Raider Classic (Lubbock, Texas)	Florida International* vs. St. Peter's, Maine vs. Texas-San Antonio. Hawaii* vs. Norfolk State, Drake vs. Sam Houston State. Brown vs. Vermont, Bucknell vs. Central Connecticut State. Marist*, Columbia, Drexel, Northeastern. Texas Tech* vs. William & Mary, Northern Iowa vs. San Diego State.
November 17-18	Battle of Baltimore (Baltimore)	Loyola (Md.)* vs. Maryland-Baltimore County, Coppin State vs. Towson State.
November 17-20	Paradise Jam (St. Thomas, Virgin Islands)	Clemson, Eastern Michigan, La Salle, Miami (Fla.), Morris Brown, UAB
November 19-21	Maui Invitational (Lahaina, Hawaii) Las Vegas Classic (Las Vegas)	Ball State, Chaminade, Duke, Houston, Kansas, Seton Hall, South Carolina, UCLA. Oklahoma State, Providence, Texas Christian, Texas-El Paso.
November 21-24	Great Alaska Shootout (Anchorage)	Alaska-Anchorage* vs. Indiana, Gonzaga vs. St. John's, Marquette vs. Tennessee, Oregon State vs. Texas.
November 22-24	Fresno State Classic (Fresno, Calif.) Las Vegas Invitational (Las Vegas, Nev.)	Fresno State*, Cal State-Northridge, Marshall, Southern Utah. Eastern Illinois, Georgia Tech, Hartford, Illinois, Iowa State, Pennsylvania, Saint Louis, Southern Illinois.
November 23-24	Hispanic College Fund Tour (Albuquerque, N.M.) Red Auerbach Colonial Classic (Washington, D.C.)	New Mexico* vs. Pacific, Southern Mississippi vs. West Virginia. George Washington*, Binghamton, Stony Brook, Yale.
November 23-25	Big Island Invitational (Hilo, Hawaii)	Hawaii-Hilo* vs. Wisconsin, Louisiana State vs. Weber State, Mercer vs. Hawaii, South Carolina State vs. Colorado State.
November 23-26	RMC Thanksgiving Shootout (Moon Township, Pa.) Hawaii Pacific Thanksgiving Classic (Honolulu)	Robert Morris*, UC Irvine, Hofstra, Illinois State, Kent, Oakland, Pittsburgh, South Florida. Hawaii-Pacific*, Akron, Hampton, Liberty, Monmouth, Notre Dame, UT Chattanooga, Vanderbilt.
November 29-30	Phoenix Classic (Hartford, Conn.)	Hartford* vs. Central Connecticut State, Niagara vs. Winthrop.
Nov. 30-Dec. 1	Boilermaker Invitational (West Lafayette, Ind.) Coca Cola Classic (Milwaukee) First Merchants Classic (Muncie, Ind.) Fresno State Tournament (Fresno, Calif.) Gazette Hawkeye Challenge (Iowa City, Iowa) Spartan Classic (East Lansing, Mich.) Tribune Cyclone Challenge (Ames, Iowa)	Purdue* vs. William & Mary, Akron vs. Oakland. Marquette*, Northern Illinois, Sam Houston State, Texas Southern. Ball State*, Austin Peay, Binghamton, Elon. Fresno State* vs. UC Riverside, Air Force vs. Montana State. Iowa*, Alabama State, La Salle, Southern Methodist. Michigan State* vs. Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne, Lamar vs. Maine. Iowa State* vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Nebraska-Omaha vs. San Jose State.
December 2-3	BB+T Classic (Washington, D.C.)	George Washington* vs. Connecticut, Maryland vs. Princeton.
December 7-8	Jim Thorpe Classic (Louisville, Ky.) Pizza Hut Classic (Springfield, Mo.)	Louisville* vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Murray State vs. Virginia Tech. Southwest Missouri State* vs. Southern, Idaho State vs. Texas-San Antonio.
December 17-22	Las Vegas Classic (Las Vegas, Nev.)	Cincinnati, Illinois-Chicago, Purdue, Louisiana-Monroe, Mississippi State, Richmond, Texas A&M, Southwest Missouri State. (First-round games to be played at campus sites; semifinals and finals to be played in Las Vegas.)
December 18-19	Stanford Invitational (Palo Alto, Calif.)	Stanford* vs. Belmont, Portland State vs. Santa Clara.
December 19-22	Outrigger Hotels Rainbow Classic (Honolulu)	Hawaii* vs. Portland, Arkansas State vs. Georgia, Boston College vs. Miami (Ohio), Holy Cross vs. Iona.
December 20-21	Carrier Classic (Syracuse, N.Y.)	Syracuse* vs. South Florida, TBD vs. TBD.
December 20-22	Pearl Harbor Classic (Laie, Hawaii) San Juan Shootout (San Juan, Puerto Rico)	BYU-Hawaii*, Columbia, Montana, Navy, New Mexico State, St. Bonaventure, Tulsa, Valparaiso. Puerto Rico-Mayaguez*, Baylor, Coppin State, Florida International, Jacksonville, Niagara, Oral Roberts, Texas-Pan American.
December 21-22	Costner Brothers Tournament (Rock Hill, S.C.) Sierra Providence Sun Classic (El Paso, Texas) Tournament of Champions (Charlotte, N.C.)	Winthrop*, South Carolina State, Tennessee-Martin, TBD. Texas-El Paso* vs. Mississippi Valley State, Indiana-Purdue vs. Mississippi. North Carolina vs. College of Charleston, Georgia State vs. St. Joseph's.

*Host school

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Date	Tournament (site)	Teams
December 27-28	ECAC Holiday Festival (New York) Florida International Tournament (Miami) Minnesota Winter Jam (Minneapolis)	Fordham vs. Manhattan, Iona vs. Seton Hall. Florida International* vs. Vermont, Long Island vs. Ohio University. Alcorn State, Morgan State, Norfolk State, Texas Southern.
December 28-29	Arizona State Tournament (Tempe, Ariz.) Cable Car Classic (Santa Clara, Calif.) Poinsettia Classic (Greenville, S.C.) Golden Bear Classic (Berkeley, Calif.) Gossner Foods Classic (Logan, Utah) Hoosier Classic (Indianapolis) Koch Islander Invitational (Corpus Christi, TX) Lobo Classic (Albuquerque, N.M.) Oneida Bingo and Casino Classic (Green Bay, Wis.) South Florida Tournament (Tampa, Fla.) Spider Invitational (Richmond, Va.) State Farm Good Neighbor Classic (Charleston, S.C.)	Arizona State* vs. Canisius, Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Northwestern. Santa Clara* vs. Maryland-Baltimore County, Detroit Mercy vs. UC Santa Barbara. Furman* vs. Macalester, Gardner-Webb vs. Yale. California* vs. Harvard, Coppin State vs. Penn State. Utah State* vs. Centenary, Birmingham Southern vs. Idaho State. Indiana* vs. Eastern Washington, Butler vs. Samford. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi*, Arkansas State, Missouri-Kansas City, Wayland Baptist. New Mexico*, Dartmouth, St. Mary's, Southeastern Louisiana. Wisconsin-Green Bay*, Boston University, UC Irvine, Lipscomb. South Florida* vs. Bucknell, Hofstra vs. Illinois-Chicago. Richmond*, Cornell, James Madison, Virginia Military. College of Charleston* vs. Louisiana-Monroe, Holy Cross vs. Radford.
December 28-30	Bank One Fiesta Bowl Classic (Tucson, Ariz.)	Arizona*, Pepperdine, Valparaiso, West Virginia.
December 29-30	Bobcat Classic (Bozeman, Mont.) Dr Pepper Classic (Chattanooga, Tenn.)	Montana State* vs. Troy State, Hampton vs. San Diego. UT Chattanooga vs. Weber State, Bradley vs. Sam Houston State.

*Host school

2001 NCAA Tournament

(regional seeds in parentheses)

CHAMPIONSHIP

Duke 82, Arizona 72

NATIONAL SEMIFINALS

Arizona 80, Michigan State 61

Duke 95, Maryland 84

WEST REGION

Final

(3) Maryland 87, (1) Stanford 73

Semifinals

(3) Maryland 76, (10) Georgetown 66

(1) Stanford 78, (5) Cincinnati 65

Second round

(3) Maryland 79, (11) Georgia St. 60

(5) Cincinnati 66, (13) Kent St. 43

(10) Georgetown 76, (15) Hampton 57

(1) Stanford 90, (9) St. Joseph's 83

First round

(11) Georgia St. 50, (6) Wisconsin 49

(9) St. Joseph's 66, (8) Georgia Tech 62

(3) Maryland 83, (14) George Mason 80

(1) Stanford 89, (16) UNC Greensboro 60

(10) Georgetown 63, (7) Arkansas 61

(13) Kent St. 77, (4) Indiana 73

(5) Cincinnati 84, (12) Brigham Young 59

(15) Hampton 58, (2) Iowa St. 57

MIDWEST REGION

Final

(2) Arizona 87, (1) Illinois 81

Semifinals

(2) Arizona 66, (3) Ole Miss 56

(1) Illinois 80, (4) Kansas 64

Second round

(4) Kansas 87, (5) Syracuse 58

(2) Arizona 73, (10) Butler 52

(1) Illinois 79, (9) Charlotte 61

(3) Ole Miss 59, (6) Notre Dame 56

First round

(1) Illinois 96, (16) Northwestern St. 54

(10) Butler 79, (7) Wake Forest 63

(9) Charlotte 70, (8) Tennessee 63

(2) Arizona 101, (15) Eastern Illinois 76

(4) Kansas 99, (13) Cal St. Northridge 75

(3) Mississippi 72, (14) Iona 70

(5) Syracuse 79, (12) Hawaii 69

(6) Notre Dame 83, (11) Xavier 71

Play-in for No. 16 spot

Northwestern St. 71, Winthrop 67

EAST REGION

Final

(1) Duke 79, (6) USC 69

Semifinals

(6) USC 80, (2) Kentucky 76

(1) Duke 76, (4) UCLA 63

Second round

(1) Duke 94, (9) Missouri 81

(4) UCLA 75, (12) Utah St. 50

(6) USC 74, (3) Boston College 71

(2) Kentucky 92, (7) Iowa 79

First round

(2) Kentucky 72, (15) Holy Cross 68

(12) Utah St. 77, (5) Ohio St. 68

(4) UCLA 61, (13) Hofstra 48

(7) Iowa 69, (10) Creighton 56

(1) Duke 95, (16) Monmouth 52

(3) Boston College 68, (14) So. Utah 65

(6) USC 69, (11) Oklahoma St. 54

(9) Missouri 70, (8) Georgia 68

SOUTH REGION

Final

(1) Michigan St. 69, (11) Temple 62

Semifinals

(1) Michigan St. 77, (12) Gonzaga 62

(11) Temple 84, (7) Penn State 72

Second round

(12) Gonzaga 85, (13) Indiana St. 68

(11) Temple 75, (3) Florida 54

(1) Michigan St. 81, (9) Fresno St. 65

(7) Penn St. 82, (2) North Carolina 74

First round

(12) Gonzaga 86, (5) Virginia 85

(11) Temple 79, (6) Texas 65

(3) Florida 69, (14) W. Kentucky 56

(13) Indiana St. 70, (4) Oklahoma 68

(1) Michigan St. 69, (16) Alabama St. 35

(7) Penn St. 69, (10) Providence 59

(9) Fresno St. 82, (8) California 70

(2) North Carolina 70, (15) Princeton 48

2002 NCAA Tournament

First and second rounds

March 14 and 16

(Thursday/Saturday)

South

Bi-Lo Center, Greenville, S.C.
Dome at America's Center, St. Louis

West

University Arena, Albuquerque, N.M.
ARCO Arena, Sacramento

March 15 and 17 (Friday/Sunday)

East

Mellon Arena, Pittsburgh.
MCI Center, Washington D.C.

Midwest

United Center, Chicago
American Airlines Arena, Dallas

Regional sessions

March 21 and 23

(Thursday/Saturday)

South

Rupp Arena, Lexington, Ky.

West

San Jose Arena, San Jose

March 22 and 24 (Friday/Sunday)

East

Carrier Dome, Syracuse, N.Y.

Midwest

Kohl Center, Madison, Wis.

Final Four

March 30 and April 1

(Saturday/Monday)

Georgia Dome, Atlanta

Future NCAA Division I

Final Four sites

2003

Louisiana Superdome,
New Orleans
April 5 and 7

2004

Alamodome, San Antonio
April 3 and 5

2005

Dome at America's Center,
St. Louis
April 2 and 4

2006

RCA Dome, Indianapolis
April 1 and 3

2007

Georgia Dome, Atlanta
March 31 and April 2

The Sporting News

College Basketball SURVEY



"Yo, it's Fly. The boss wants to know what you think about college basketball and this yearbook. Fly's talkin' about the dish on the hardwood from 'The Bible of Sports.' Tell THE SPORTING NEWS what you think, and ya get a shot at some great sstuff."

All you have to do is answer the following questions and return this survey to the address on the next page by December 1, 2001, and you'll be entered in a drawing for one of 10 free six-month subscriptions to *The Sporting News*.

"Get goin'. I'll see you in the sports pages."

1. Going into the 2001-02 season, which Division I-A conference do you think is strongest?

- ☐ ACC ☐ Pac-10 ☐ Big Ten
☐ SEC ☐ Big East ☐ Big 12
☐ Conference USA ☐ Atlantic 10

2. Do you think teams with a losing conference record should be allowed to receive at-large NCAA Tournament bids?
☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Of the active coaches who have won an NCAA championship, which one do you think is the best coach?

- ☐ Jim Calhoun ☐ Steve Fisher
☐ Jim Harrick ☐ Tom Izzo
☐ Bob Knight ☐ Mike Krzyzewski
☐ Rollie Massimino ☐ Lute Olson
☐ Rick Pitino ☐ Nolan Richardson
☐ Tubby Smith ☐ Jerry Tarkanian

4. Where do you think the 3-point arc should be?
☐ College depth (19 feet, 9 inches)
☐ International depth (20 feet, 6 inches)
☐ NBA depth (23 feet, 9 inches)
☐ NBA corner depth (22 feet)

5. If you attended college, do you actively support your school's basketball team by attending games and/or donating money to the athletic department?
☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Would you like to see more coverage of Division II, Division III or NAIA?

- ☐ D-II ☐ D-III ☐ NAIA
☐ No

7. How often do you refer to THE SPORTING NEWS College Basketball yearbook throughout the season?
☐ weekly ☐ monthly ☐ constantly

8. Is this your first purchase of THE SPORTING NEWS College Basketball yearbook?
☐ Yes ☐ No

8a. If not, how many times have you bought it?
☐ 1 ☐ 2-3 ☐ 4-5 ☐ 5-10
☐ more than 10

9. If we could devote more or less space to certain sections (without changing the overall number of pages), how would you like to see that space used?

More pages	Fewer pages	Perfect as is	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feature articles on players, issues, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conference previews
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Team charts
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scouting the nation, Top 25 capsules
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Predictions (conference races, All-American teams, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recruiting

10. Anything else we should change to improve THE SPORTING NEWS College Basketball yearbook?

11. How many other people read your copy of THE SPORTING NEWS College Basketball yearbook?
☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4-5
☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15

12. What influenced you to buy THE SPORTING NEWS College Basketball yearbook? (Check all that apply.)
☐ overall editorial content
☐ graphic presentation ☐ cover
☐ price ☐ name recognition

13. Ideally, when would you like to buy the College Basketball yearbook?
☐ Oct. 1 ☐ Oct. 15 ☐ Nov. 1 ☐ Nov. 15

14. Which other yearbooks from THE SPORTING NEWS do you read or look through? (Check all that apply.)
☐ College Football ☐ Fantasy Football
☐ Pro Football ☐ Racing
☐ Baseball ☐ Fantasy Baseball
☐ Pro Basketball ☐ Hockey
☐ NFL Draft Guide

15. If it were possible to buy all 10 of THE SPORTING NEWS yearbooks on a subscription basis, would you do so?
☐ Yes ☐ No

16. Do you read yearbooks from other companies?

☐ Yes ☐ No

16a. If yes, which ones?

☐ Athlon
☐ Lindy's
☐ Preview ☐ Street & Smith's
☐ other _____

17. Do you buy THE SPORTING NEWS weekly magazine?

☐ Yes ☐ No

17a. If yes, are you a subscriber?

☐ Yes ☐ No

17b. How would you rate the college basketball coverage?

☐ excellent ☐ very good ☐ good
☐ average ☐ below average

18. At which position do you think it's most important for a championship team to have its best player?

☐ center ☐ power forward
☐ wing (small forward or shooting guard)
☐ point guard

19. Have you purchased anything through mail order or over the Internet?

☐ Yes, mail order ☐ Yes, Internet
☐ Neither

20. Have you bought a product or service advertised in The Sporting News?

☐ Yes ☐ No

21. Have you bought a product or service advertised in one of THE SPORTING NEWS' yearbooks?

☐ Yes ☐ No

22. Do you play sports?

☐ Yes ☐ No

22a. If yes, which sports do you play?

☐ football ☐ golf
☐ baseball ☐ tennis
☐ softball ☐ running
☐ basketball ☐ cycling
☐ hockey ☐ hiking/walking
☐ soccer ☐ in-line skating
☐ other _____

23. Do you own a personal computer?

☐ Yes ☐ No

24. Do you subscribe to an online service?

☐ Yes ☐ No

24a. Have you ever seen or used the award-winning TSN website www.sportingnews.com?

☐ Yes ☐ No

25. Do you play in a Rotisserie or other fantasy league?

☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ baseball ☐ football
☐ basketball ☐ hockey ☐ golf

26. Do you collect trading cards?

☐ Yes ☐ No

26a. If yes, which sports?

☐ baseball ☐ football
☐ basketball ☐ hockey
☐ other _____

26b. Where do you purchase them?

☐ memorabilia store
☐ convenience store
☐ supermarket
☐ mass merchandiser
(Kmart, Wal-Mart, etc.)
☐ other _____

27. Do you wear merchandise featuring your favorite teams' logos?

☐ Yes ☐ No

28. How much do you spend a year on sporting goods (clothes and equipment)?

☐ less than \$100
☐ \$100 to \$250
☐ more than \$250

29. Will you be buying a new car or truck in the next two years?

☐ Yes ☐ No

30. Do you consider brand names in your purchasing decisions?

☐ Yes ☐ No

31. Have you watched any sporting event on pay-per-view?

☐ Yes ☐ No

32. Do you have a satellite dish?

☐ Yes ☐ No

32a. If yes, do you purchase any of the various sports packages?

☐ Yes ☐ No

32b. If no, do you plan on buying a satellite dish?

☐ Yes ☐ No

33. How many college basketball games do you attend in a season?

☐ 0 ☐ 1-2 ☐ 3-10 ☐ 11-plus

34. How far do you live from the home court of the nearest Division I college basketball team?

☐ 0-25 miles ☐ 26-50 ☐ more than 50

35. Have you traveled to attend a college game outside your local market?

☐ Yes ☐ No

36. Please check the category that includes your age.

☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-29
☐ 30-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54
☐ 55-64 ☐ Over 64

37. Are you...

☐ male? ☐ female?

38. Are you...

☐ married? ☐ single?

39. Did you attend /graduate from college?

☐ Yes ☐ No

40. Which of the following categories contains your approximate total household income, before taxes, for 2000? (Please include total earnings for all members of your household from all sources.)

☐ Less than \$20,000
☐ \$20,000-\$29,999
☐ \$30,000-\$39,999
☐ \$40,000-\$49,999
☐ \$50,000-\$74,999
☐ \$75,000-\$99,999
☐ \$100,000-\$199,999
☐ More than \$200,000

This portion is for our records and for your registration for the drawing. It will be kept CONFIDENTIAL and separate from your sports poll answers. Please fill in the following information:

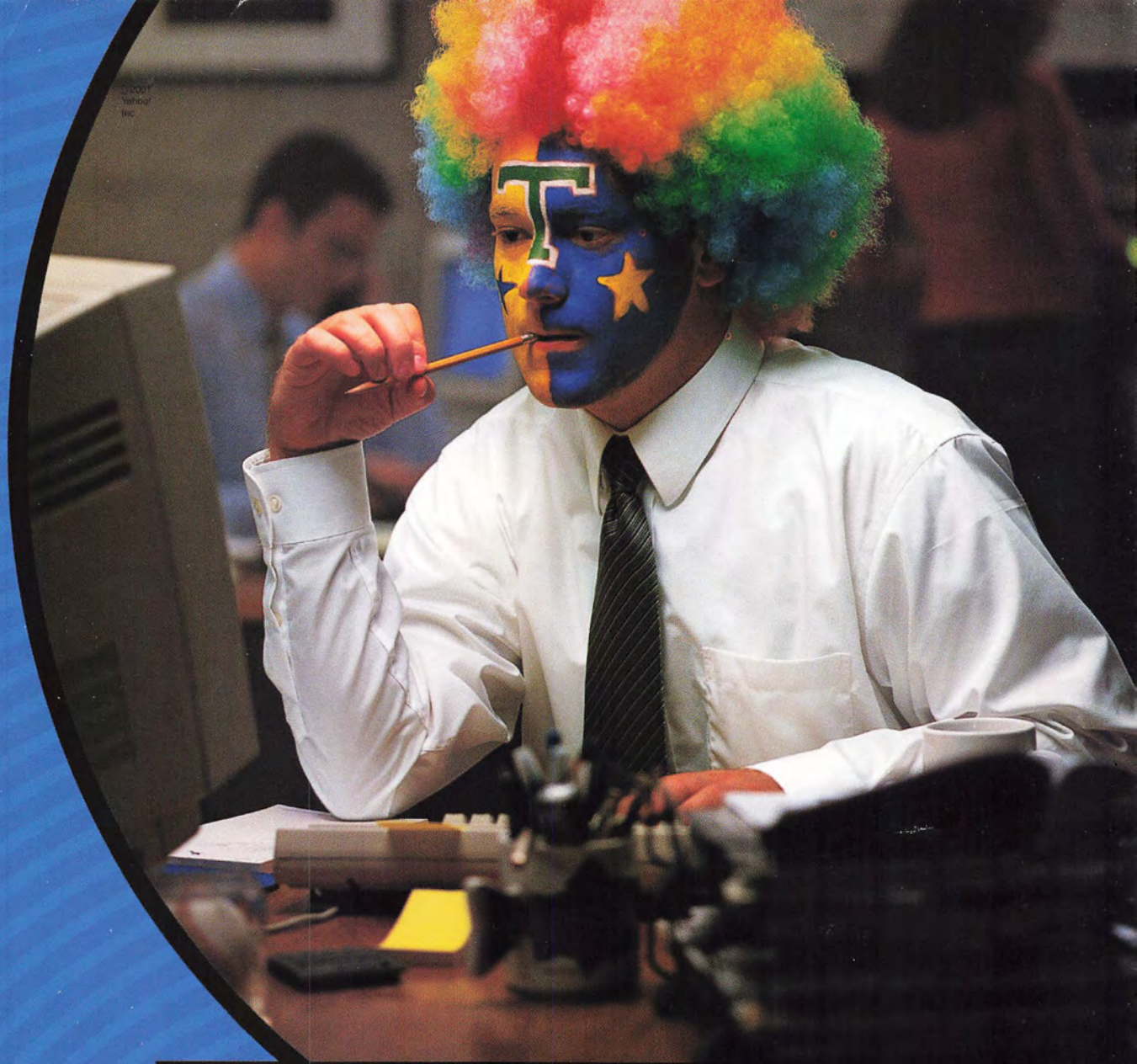
Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Please return the survey to:
The Sporting News
College Basketball Survey
P.O. Box 1040
Millburn, NJ 07041



Follow the game at work. (Be subtle.)

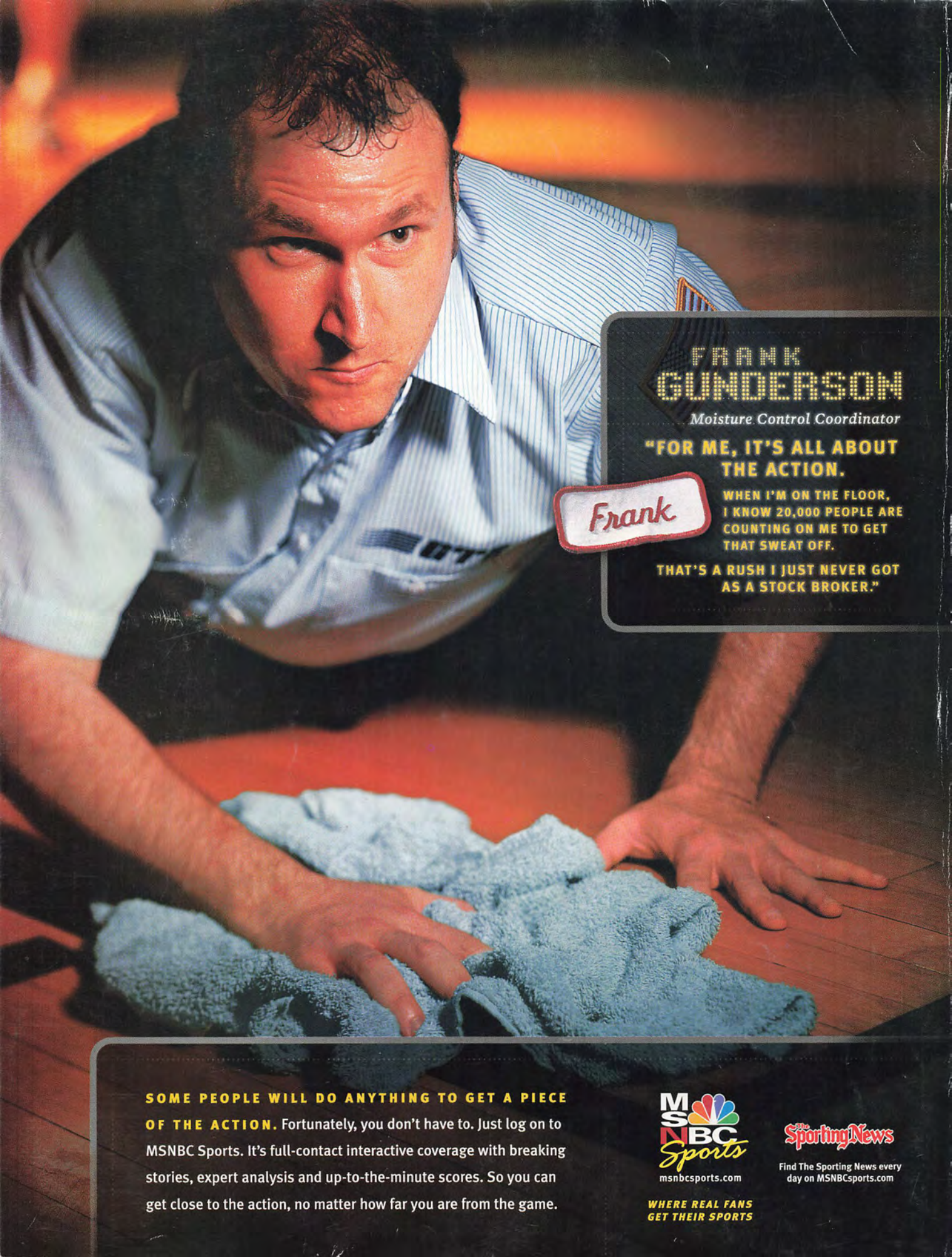
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FRANK GUNDERSON

Moisture Control Coordinator

"FOR ME, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ACTION."

Frank

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THAT'S A RUSH I JUST NEVER GOT AS A STOCK BROKER."

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